

Undergrads last in line in

NYU's rushed restructuring

On April 10, the administration unveiled "FAR-4", a plan to drastically change graduate employee funding and work arrangements, by replacing all TAs with adjunct positions. As an NYU undergrad, you pay \$51,000+ a year in tuition, one of the highest rates in the country. **How will this plan affect you?**

1. Less contact with NYU instructors.

Several departments are already looking outside NYU to hire "adjuncts" to replace NYU TAs.

2. Harder to take the class you want to.

Some classes will no longer have TAs or adjuncts, prompting some professors to say they will shrink class sizes to compensate.

3. The possibility of shortened sections.

It's not in the written proposal, but the administration has spoken informally about reducing recitation times from

1:15 to 50 minutes. That's a 33% reduction!

4. Undergrads are an afterthought.

There is not a single mention of undergraduates in the FAR-4 proposal. The undergrads are this administration's last priority, to be dealt with once everything else is sorted out to their macabre satisfaction.

5. The wrong things go up, while the right things go down.

More tuition, more multiple-choice tests; fewer spots in classes, less teaching time.

How to get involved:

- Email gsocuaw@gmail.com for more information, including the full text of the administration's proposal.
- Talk about the proposed changes with your professors, your colleagues, and anyone helping paying for your education.

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On April 10, the administration unveiled "FAR-4", a plan to drastically change graduate employee funding and work arrangements, by replacing all TAs with adjunct positions.

What will it mean for *grad students*?

- 1. Recklessly endangering the visa status of all international students**, 40% of GSAS. It seems they called OISS, the office for international students, late last week for the first time to discuss visa implications, hardly a reassuring thought!
- 2. Aggressive push on the five year model.** According to national figures, only 12% of PhD students in the humanities, and 20% in the social sciences, complete their doctorates in five years.
- 3. Turning DGS's and faculty into managers and poisoning student-faculty relations**, saying that professors will use "moral authority" to ensure enough graduate students teach, and that there will be a "culture of expectation" that everyone will teach at least one year, depending on department needs is a dangerous and slippery slope.
- 4. Admitting unfunded PhDs is unjust and will be disastrous**, reducing diversity and accessibility while sparking competition for funding between graduate students. A major achievement of the GSOC/UAW 2002-2005 contract was a guaranteed fellowship for everyone, and relatively equitable funding for all graduate students.
- 5. Attempt at preemptive union-busting.** NYU administrators have told department chairs that FAR-4 is a reaction to President Obama's nominations to the National Labor Relations Board; the administration is attempting to stymie graduate employees' collective bargaining rights, denying them the right to a union contract with firm guarantees.
- 6. Dividing graduate employees against each other.** It speaks of customizing by department and introducing a bundle of different positions, dividing the workforce into as many fragments as possible, each with different pay and responsibilities.
- 7. Terrible for students at late stages of the program.** Students who have already taught for two or three years, and were counting on informal arrangements of 6th- or 7th-year funding, will be disproportionately punished by the new system.
- 8. What about FAR-5?** The university wants to push this plan through in a rush during the last weeks of the semester. Why? If they're willing to make such huge changes so quickly this time, how can we trust them not to make more wholesale changes whenever they feel like it?

How to get involved:

- Email gsocuaw@gmail.com for more information, including the full text of the administration's proposal.
- Talk about the proposed changes with your advisor, DGS, chair, and colleagues.
- Sign a union card and sign the petition in support of the Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants Collective Bargaining Rights Act.
- Sign up for an organizing shift to help build our union.