



UNION OF GRADUATE STUDENT WORKERS

PSAC Directly Chartered Local 60550

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Chief Steward's Report – Lauren Rowsey

April 11, 2019

Since becoming Chief Steward in November of last year, I have gotten more engaged with our Local and have enjoyed serving our members. While holding this position, I have attended all Executive meetings and participated in discussions concerning bylaw changes to better include our Post-Doctoral members, financial budget reports, and how we can further encourage membership involvement.

I completed the Talking Union Basics and Grievance Handling Training courses offered by the PSAC shortly after taking on my position in order to better represent our members. I found the Grievance Handling Training particularly insightful and a worthwhile experience as I now feel equipped to manage the grievance process. I have worked hard under our President's guidance to learn how to best support our members through grievances. I have also worked to revive our Steward's Network, and at our first meeting, we identified the main concerns of the represented departments and how each steward can best fulfill their responsibilities. I look forward to our future meetings and expanding our Steward's Network. In addition to serving as Chief Steward, I am involved in the Joint Working Committees for Intellectual Property, No Harassment, No Discrimination, and Whistleblower Protection, and International Students. As the chair for the Intellectual Property Committee, I got the ball rolling during our first meeting with the help of our President, and I feel we have solid momentum. I am currently working on drafting the terms of reference and will be meeting with the Employer chair to discuss how to best make progress with this committee.

I encourage anyone interested in getting more involved in our Local to step up as a steward for your department. I'm happy to announce that we now have 12 stewards representing 11 departments, but that still leaves over half of our members' departments without steward representation. Stewards play a crucial role in our Local by ensuring that their members' concerns are represented and, at the very least, aim to make sure that everyone is aware of their Union, their rights, and their Collective Agreement. I am hoping to continue serving our Local as Chief Steward, and look forward to opportunities to motivate members, gain more expertise through training, and collaborate with our Executive team. Having a strong, diverse Union is imperative to protect the rights of Graduate Students and Post-Doctoral Workers, and I hope we can continue to strengthen ours.

In Solidarity,

Lauren Rowsey