

People's Movement Assembly
The Changing Landscape of Higher Education:
Austerity, Precarity & Graduate Student Workers

#Academiclabor

We encourage people to adopt and adapt this model for a people's movement assembly. Please send your feedback or suggestions to inosa@mayfirst.org.

***Goals of People's Movement Assembly**

- Networking and experience exchange
- Understand connections between academic and other workers
- Deepen awareness of movements for economic justice and worker rights
- Outline plan for working together
- Build network of people to carry work forward

[Recommended time allotments are based on a 2 hour meeting format. However, it is recommended that Assemblies be organized to allow participants more time to fully discuss and reflect on these questions, and a 2-day meeting is highly recommended if that is feasible for your group]

Part I 12:00 NOON-1:30 PM-Consciousness & Experience-Sharing

Opening-Introductions (20 min.)

Introduction-to the People's Movement Assembly—Jackie Smith, University of Pittsburgh & International Network of Scholar Activists

Welcome from Washington D.C. Area Students

Graduate Student Workers and Struggles-Marisa Allison, George Mason University

Background readings available at: <http://pittcoalitionsworkshop.wikispaces.com/INoSA>

Small groups-1—Experience and analysis (20 min.)

- Introductions
- Discuss examples from your campus of how economic change is impacting students and workers in higher education.
- Have recent changes in funding affected people on your campus? How?
- How have the labor market opportunities for graduates at your institution been impacted by the funding policies and working conditions for graduate students?

Report back to full group (10 min.)

Small group 2: Visioning alternatives & learning from other movements (20 min.)

- Are people organizing on your campus in response to the economic pressures? How?
- Can you identify similarities or connections between academic and other work-related movements?
- What do you see as the most effective strategies or targets for graduate student worker movements to pursue?

Report back to full group (10 min.)

Part II 1:30-3:00PM—People’s Movement Assembly Part 2—Strategy & Planning

Introductions and reflections on part 1 (20 min.)

Facilitator may offer additional synthesis of Part 1 & then discussion

Next steps—Brainstorming (40 min.)

- What are some of the strengths of organizing work happening on your campus?
- What is needed to help advance and support efforts for social & worker justice?
- How can we organize these efforts in a more sustainable way?
- How can we better coordinate the work that is happening?
- Long-term visions/ goals
- Short- and medium-term steps/ objectives

Commitments: (20 min.)

- What are people willing to do to help move the work forward?

Background readings and resources at: <http://inosa.wikispaces.com/Peoples+Movement+Assembly+Fall+2014>
(also at www.scholaraction.org)

- [Who is Professor Staff?](#)
- [Professors on food stamps](#)
- ["You are not a Loan" Says Strike Debt](#)
- [Open Access Week](#) is October 20-26, 2014. Contact your local librarian!