Meet your 2026 TRU-UE Local 197 Bargaining Committee!

KSAS STEM



Marie Pearce (she/her)

I am a 6th year in the Program in Molecular Biophysics and am excited to strengthen our contract to ensure that everyone's work is recognized and protected so that JHU cannot use academic punishment to retaliate against workers.



Michalis Panagiotou (he/him)

4th year physics PhD candidate. Into board games, sewing and recreational math :). Here to do my duty towards my fellow workers and myself; our contract is only as strong as our union!



David Bass (he/him)

Hello, I am David (he/him)! I am a fourth-year in the Biology Dept. on Homewood, where I research computational methods to study RNA processing. I have served TRU and UE in various capacities, including as a TRU Data Coordinator and a UE Eastern Region Trustee. As a member of Bargaining Committee, I am excited to fight for our fair share of Hopkins' $13 billion endowment and stronger legal protections for international workers. I'm a proud DSA member, Jew, Virginian, and UVA alum. Outside of building worker-led democracy at JHU, I love watching movies, cooking, and trivia competitions.

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KSAS H/SS, SoE, SAIS



Holden Turner (any pronouns)

Hello hello! My name is Holden Turner (any pronouns) -- I'm a 2nd year in the departments of Modern Languages & Literatures and Anthropology, and I focus on how Italian geoscientists are understanding sea-level rise and other climate futures. When I'm not at work (read: as much as possible) I enjoy gardening, baking, and biking. If you're on Homewood, you've probably spotted me riding my blue bike on all the possible accessible paths. This year I'm also serving as the Homewood Grievance Coordinator, and I'm psyched to be on BC to stare JHU admin in the eye and hold them accountable to taking care of their grad students.

April Ma (they/them)

Hi, I'm April (they/them), a 4th year in Political Science. I'm proud to be elected to the Bargaining Committee of a militant union to struggle for the needs of TRU members, us graduate workers, along with our lab techs, custodial staff, dining hall workers, and everyone else who makes this University run. As a BC member, I see myself as a megaphone for rank and file members - what we collectively want is what BC is tasked to fight for! I see a future where Universities are truly learning institutions, and not treasuries to stabilize Michael Bloomberg's investments or coddle alt-right paranoia. To me, that looks like education that doesn't fund genocide, institutional growth that enriches Baltimore instead of encouraging its gentrification, and work that is valued for the value it produces.

Aside from checking our Union slack every day, I am an an avid grass-toucher, a BVB Dortmund fan, and a top 5% Baltimore Beli user (@aprileatsalot).

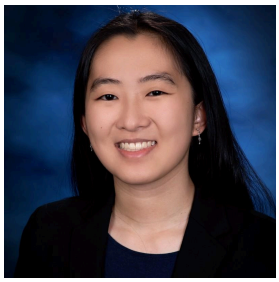
Whiting School of Engineering



Trung Phung (he/him)

I’m Trung (he/him). I started at Hopkins in 2022. I am in the Department of Computer Science and am an international student. I want to have funding until graduation and a comfortable stipend. I am annoyed at the two faced JHU top admins say “we are for students”, but provide zero help for international students stuck at the border and don’t stand with international students who are opposing hostile policies.

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Michelle Dai (she/her)

Hello everyone! I am Michelle Dai (she/her), a 3rd year PhD student in Applied Math and Statistics. In my free time, I enjoy running, knitting/crocheting, and cooking/baking. I joined the bargaining committee because Whiting has always had low turnout/engagement with union matters, and I hope to understand what goes into contract bargaining to involve other Whiting students and inform them of what goes into protecting our rights as workers.



Jamie Enslein (she/her)

My name is Jamie Enslein (she/her) and I'm a 3rd year in the Electrical and Computer Engineering department. This is my first time on BC and I'm really excited to be a part of it! I have been immensely grateful for the contract that TRU negotiated previously, so I'm passionate about continuing to fight for it and hopefully incorporate even more protections that matter for our community.

School of Public Health, School of Nursing



Sonia Dhawan (she/her)

Hi, I'm Sonia (she/her, 3rd year). I research the health effects of work in the Environmental Health & Engineering (EHE) department at the School of Public Health. I ran for bargaining committee because our employer constantly violates its own stated values and standards (and the law!) to curtail our rights and benefits. This hypocrisy has recently been amplified in JHU's treatment of workers who are immigrants, parents or caregivers, disabled, and those who are vocally anti-genocide. In our second contract fight, I look forward to collectively harnessing our power as organized workers to create the workplace we want and need. Some (fun?) facts about me: I have proudly called Baltimore my home since 2018, I have 2 cats and some experience in animal rescue, and I like to pretend that my reality TV obsession is actually an intellectual/sociological pursuit.

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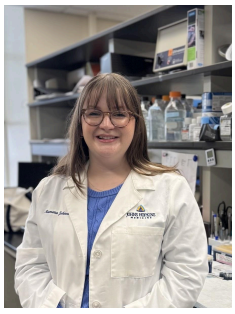
Saba Chowdhury (she/her)

Hi everyone! My name is Saba (she/her), and I am a 3rd year in the Department of Mental Health at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Outside of research, I love making pottery and going on (easy) hikes in nature.

I joined BC because I wanted public health doctoral workers to be represented and I felt compelled to step up!

I am most excited to fight for a fifth year of funding! I know it would take a lot of stress off the people I care about, so they can focus on the science.

School of Medicine



Ramona Johnson (she/her)

Hello! My name is Ramona (she/her) and I'm a 5th year in Immunology at the School of Medicine. I research mechanisms of female-biased autoimmune diseases, particularly Sjogren's disease and rheumatoid arthritis. I'm excited to be on the bargaining committee to fight for the needs of all our grad student workers at Hopkins! In my spare time, I like to read and go on walks with my dog Fitz.



Maria Wissler (she/her)

Maria Wissler (she/her) - 6th year in the Cellular and Molecular Biology Program, SOM

Pancreatic cancer researcher, union steward, and long-time pain-in-the-butt for my program. I am passionate about standing up for our rights and advocating for my peers. I'm not afraid to be vocal about issues and happy to speak up on behalf of individuals who may not feel comfortable doing so themselves. I see bargaining as an opportunity to raise issues with University administration and create concrete contract language to fix them. I look forward to slashing out the University's shitty contract proposals during bargaining.

In my spare time, I enjoy cooking, traveling, binging sappy TV series, and listening to audiobooks.

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Noah Workman (he/him)

Noah Workman (he/him) | 5th-Year PhD Candidate, Human Genetics & Genomics (School of Medicine)

I research precision gene editing therapeutics in the Newby Lab and spend time at JHTV working on biotech development. Before grad school, I worked as a lab manager and unionized research associate at Harvard Medical School, which gave me an early appreciation for how much universities rely on undervalued academic labor and what a good union contract can do. As a longtime TRU steward and student rep for my program, I joined the Bargaining Committee to be a practical, results-oriented voice at the table and help deliver a solid next contract. My main goal is to keep us focused on the core workplace issues that unite us all and brought us to unionize in the first place, rather than spending our energy on symbolic gestures. I am excited to fight for material improvements like better pay and stability. When not at the bench, I enjoy backpacking, playing strategy games, cooking with my partner, and remodeling my pet dart frogs' vivariums.