Class & Employment: A History of Student Efforts

1975

Student Work Program Proposal Drafted

1988

http://www.hampshire.edu/library/archives/vol1/opol.html#work

March 2nd

The Administration, having been presented with the recommendations of the Student Wage Task Force, agrees to the recommendations of an office space in the Airport Lounge for a student-run employment center, that there continue to be no graduated pay scale for student workers, that the Administration officially recognize a grievance procedure for student workers, and that any jobs not filled because of a wage raise due to students working less hours be turned into community service.

They did not, however, agree to the Task Force's recommendations for a student wage raise. The recommendation was for our wage to be increased starting March 1st, 1988, to $4.25/hr., (to be retroactive), and increased to $4.75 starting July 1st, 1988.

March 10th

A teach-in on racism and classism entitled "Race and Class: Working for Change", organized by various professors is held and attended by students, staff, faculty, and many guests. There is a moratorium on classes.

March 11th – Student Workers Walk Out

On Thursday, March 3, the student workers of Hampshire College staged a one-day walkout in protest of the administration's response to their demands for a wage raise.

Prior to the walkout an offer of $4.00 was made by President Simmons. At the largest SWC meeting on record, students voted not to accept the amount and to stage the walkout followed with the threat of a full strike.

As a result, the snack bar, bookstore, post office and swimming pool were closed either all or part of the day. Several buildings, usually monitored in the evening by students, closed early after regular staff left for the day. Saga was kept running by the student managers who were reported to have been "in the dishroom".

Apr. 8 - Victory for Student Workers!

On Thursday, March 31, student workers received paychecks that included a wage raise to $4.18 an hour. Previous paychecks had included a raise to $4.00 an hour. This 11.5% increase marks the first time that students have gotten a raise in the middle of the semester.

The final $.18 was negotiated the week before spring break when members of the Student Workers Coalition met with the Administration's negotiating team. These negotiations began after a one day walkout by student workers on Thursday, March 3.
September

Nine students from the Learning Tree, a community-based education program in Springfield and Northern Education Systems, a multi-service community agency also in Springfield, became Hampshire’s first James Baldwin Scholars. For more information on the JB Scholars Program, visit the Admissions page on the Hampshire website.

2001/2002

In the Fall of ’01 and the Spring of ’02, two people including one Hampshire Alum, started and co-facilitated a four-college support group for raised poor and working class students at the four private colleges in the Valley—Hampshire, Smith, Mt. Holyoke and Amherst. They rotated, meeting on the different campuses once or twice a month. Several students from Hampshire attended regularly.

The facilitators then approached campus administrators about funding the effort via a proposal that would have cost each campus about $5,000 for a support group on each campus, a meeting for students on all campuses together at the start and end of each semester, and some staff and faculty training on class issues.

Not one campus came through with the funding and it became hard to continue on a voluntary basis.

2005

April 14th

A newly-founded Work-Study Advocacy Group hosts its first work-study forum. The Group seeks to draw attention to the issues faced by all students who work on Hampshire’s campus.

NOTE: Gaps in this history abound due not to a lack of student efforts, but to a lack of record-keeping & support. Attempts at filling in the gaps are WELCOME!