

Dear President Bollinger,

Now that the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has restored research and teaching assistants' right to collective bargaining, we look forward to a more productive relationship with your administration in the future.

Instead of respecting our right to choose unionization, the administration has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars attempting to block our democratic rights since December 2014, when a majority of RAs and TAs first declared its support for GWC-UAW. While we are encouraged by the improvements your administration has offered in recent months, we know that Columbia can do better by respecting our democratic choice negotiating with us as equals over all issues that affect us as RAs and TAs, and putting our pay, benefits, rights and protections into a binding contract.

Our work--teaching, performing grant-winning research, and supporting daily operations--is essential to the life of this university and to Columbia's standing as a respected and highly-ranked university. Like hundreds of employees at Columbia and tens of thousands of unionized RAs and TAs at more than 60 university campuses across the United States, we deserve the voice and respect we will gain through collective bargaining. We have every confidence that if an elected bargaining committee and the administration sit down with an attitude of mutual respect, we can negotiate a contract that improves our lives and also makes the university more competitive, inclusive, and accessible.

To create a more productive relationship moving forward, we once again urge your administration commit to the following: refrain from any further efforts to delay our democratic right to choose GWC-UAW as our union; make no effort to influence how RAs and TAs vote on the issue; discourage faculty from attempting to influence how RAs and TAs vote on the issue ; and – upon verification that majority of RAs and TAs have voted in support of GWC-UAW – immediately commence good-faith negotiations for a contract. As a reminder, we have also attached a letter from more than 160 elected and community leaders encouraging a similar commitment from your administration.

Sincerely,

Graduate Workers of Columbia-UAW



CC:

John Coatsworth, Provost, Columbia University

Glenn Hubbard, Dean, Columbia Business School

Carlos Alonso, Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Amale Andraos, Dean, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Linda P. Fried, Dean, Mailman School of Public Health

Steve Coll, Dean, School of Journalism

Carol Becker, Dean of the School of the Arts

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Merit E. Janow, Dean, School of International and Public Affairs

Jeanette C. Takamura, Dean, School of Social Work