



# Strike Prep Fall 2018

## FAQ for Students

### **What is SENS-UAW?**

SENS-UAW (Student Employees at the New School-UAW) is the union for student workers engaged in teaching and research work. These positions include Teaching Assistants, Teaching Fellows, Research Assistants, Course Assistants, and Tutors.

### **Why are they going on strike?**

We are currently in bargaining with the administration and have some important demands on the table. We are fighting for wage increases, healthcare subsidies, as well as enforceable protections against issues such as late pay, discrimination and harassment. Although we have addressed many non-economic issues successfully, such as extending the reporting time for reporting discriminatory harassment, the administration is not taking our economic demands seriously. We have been fighting for our union for four years and want to win the contract that we deserve. We want to win this contract by the end of the semester. Striking is our last resort. If the university continues to hold up bargaining - failing to respond to our simplest proposals and refusing to respect our economic demands - we have no choice but to exercise our legal right to go on strike.

### **What is a strike?**

A strike is a coordinated stoppage of work aimed at convincing an employer to meet employee demands. In this case, teaching assistants, research assistants, and others would stop their paid work doing grading, research, and teaching on campus in order to send a message to the administration to bargain fairly with our union. The elected bargaining committee was authorized to call for a strike after a democratic vote empowered them to do so. This authorization vote took place from Feb 28 - Mar 1, in which 99.4% voted in favor of a strike.

**What happens if my TA or TF goes on strike?**

If your TA or TF participates in the strike, they will not engage in any work related to that position -- teaching, leading discussion sections, grading, etc. Striking workers on campus will gather at picket lines. We encourage all students, especially if your TA/TF is among those striking, to join the picket line to show your support.

**Will the strike hurt students?**

A strike may be disruptive for students in the short term, but in the long term, students will benefit. The working conditions for TAs and TFs are our students' learning conditions. Until our contract is ratified, The New School unilaterally decides whether to make improvements, whether workers get paid on time, whether to address cases of workplace sexual harassment, and whether to increase pay to accommodate rising housing and living costs. If the administration truly cares about students, they will bargain fairly with SENS-UAW and ensure an end to the strike.

**What should students do during a strike?**

Students who wish to support the union can do so by joining the picket lines, educating fellow students about the strike, and voicing support for graduate worker unionization to the administration and the public. The administration has left us no other option but to disrupt the way the institution is functioning. Reach out to President Van Zandt and Provost Tim Marshall and tell them to bargain fairly!

We encourage students to contact the administration and resolve the strike before it even happens so their education is not disrupted.

You can also Tweet at President Van Zandt to demand a #FairContractNow: tag @DavidVanZandt