

How to talk to faculty about a strike:

- There are several options for talking to faculty members (including advisors, supervisors, PIs, and the professors you TA for) about the strike deadline. [More than 400 faculty](#) members have already demonstrated support for our right to go on strike.
- It is in the entire New School community's interest for us to have a union contract. TAs and RAs who have fair pay and job security can do better work as teachers and researchers.
- You should **not** try to make the faculty experience of the strike easier by completing extra work in advance. The goal of a strike is to demonstrate that graduate labor is valuable and necessary and that its absence is a problem for the university.

Key messages to communicate to your supervising faculty:

- **We understand how disruptive a strike is and we have not taken this step lightly.** However, we have been forced to this point by the administration's intransigence at the bargaining table. In your communications with the administration, please encourage them to meet our demands and avoid a strike.
- **Please do not arrange to have my work completed by someone else.** Having learned at the bargaining table that the university administration does not adequately value our labor, it is our legally-protected right to demonstrate to them how essential we are to the university's functioning.
- **Please do not cross the picket-line.** If you plan to teach your classes, please make arrangements to do so off-site. We understand the university is undertaking contingency planning in this respect and encourage you to ask them to provide you with an appropriate off-site location if you cannot find such a location yourself.
- **Please make arrangements so that any students who refuse to cross the picket line are not punished academically for doing so.**
 - **It is up to faculty to decide what constitutes a valid excuse for an absence.**

What should faculty expect?

- During a strike, workers withhold their labor to demonstrate their value to their workplace.
 - TAs and TFs will not provide any form of instruction, including classes, discussion sections, and review sessions; will not hold office hours or send teaching-related emails; and will not grade papers, exams, problem sets, or other assignments for the duration of the strike.
 - RAs will not respond to emails from faculty or complete tasks required by their position.
- The strike has been voted for in a democratic election. A majority of grad workers participated in the election, and 99.4% voted yes to strike.
- No grad worker is forced to participate in a strike; the UAW does not penalize workers who do not strike.

- International students have the same federal protections to participate in a strike as domestic students do. Suggesting that international students might be discriminated against in the event of a strike can be considered illegal retaliation.

What can faculty do to show their support?

- **Refuse to replace the labor performed by academic student workers. Do not do our lab or research tasks, grade our students' papers and exams, or teach the classes and discussion sections we normally teach.**
- Communicate to students, fellow faculty, and the administration that you support our right to go on strike.
- Ignore requests from the administration to report which workers are striking.
- Respect the picket line by moving your classes off campus during the strike.
- Join us on the picket line in front of the UC every day of the strike.
- [Sign the faculty support letter](#) endorsing our right to go on strike.

More information

- Answers to frequently asked questions are available at <https://sensuaw.org/strike>
- Email further questions to sensuaw@gmail.com or talk to union organizers in your department.
- The final day for faculty to submit grades for the Fall 2018 semester is **31 December 2018**.
- Faculty also have the option to provide students with an extension beyond 31 December to complete work. This is achieved by faculty inputting a "temporary incomplete" grade on MyNewSchool. Faculty can subsequently change this to a letter grade on MyNewSchool without the need for any additional paperwork.
- As noted in the New School's "Grading Policies and Procedures", available [here](#): "For undergraduate students grades of "Incomplete" can be changed until the end of the 7th week of the semester following the one in which the course was taken. For graduate students grade changes can be made up to one year following the official end date of the course."

Remember: We all want to avoid a strike. The best means of doing so is by pressuring the administration to move negotiations to a fair and successful conclusion this week. We encourage all faculty to communicate this to their relevant contacts in the administration.