



Dear colleagues, friends,

As you are aware, this semester a group of New School students from across divisions and departments came together and began organizing a union campaign. Our card drive was a success! We approached as many graduate student workers currently working as TAs, TFs, and RAs as we could, and have obtained overwhelming majority support (over 75%, to be precise). In this confidence we have formed our union: SENS-UAW (Student Employees at the New School). Over the next months, we will seek a collective bargaining agreement with the university.

The strong support from across the board reflects the fact that our work as employees of the university is essential to the life of this institution. Although we play a critical role in the academic community, we have experienced precarious funding, inadequate medical coverage for ourselves and our families, job and wage insecurity, a lack of transparency in administrative policies, and a lack of professionalism that stems from our labor not being recognized as work. Like other workers, we deserve living wages, adequate benefits, clear workload expectations, and consistent and transparent employment policies.

The security we will enjoy when we are able to negotiate the terms of our employment will allow us to take greater pride in the work we do for the university and ensure the integrity of our own education and research. Collective bargaining will make us full members of the academic community and make the New School a stronger and more democratic institution.

On **Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 3pm** a group of student delegates from SENS-UAW will deliver a letter to the administration, requesting their recognition of our will to form a union, and their neutrality in the matter. We are writing to invite you to join us in this important event in the history of the New School. Let us demonstrate the support of the student body by gathering outside president Van Zandt's office starting at 2:30pm. For details, see: [facebook.com/events/612361975535877](https://www.facebook.com/events/612361975535877)

We make this first step with conviction: we are motivated by the desire for a better New School community, and the determination to do our part to bring it to life. Like hundreds of employees at the New School and tens of thousands of student workers who already have unions at more than 60 university campuses across the United States, we deserve the voice and respect we will gain through collective bargaining. Join us!

In solidarity,

Emily Sogn	NSSR/Anthropology	C. Clinkenbeard	NSSR/Philosophy	Eli Lichtenstein	Eugene Lang
Kylie Benton-Connell	NSSR/Anthropology	Luis Alberto Lei	NSSR/Philosophy	Bert Azizoglu	NSSR/Economics
Grzegorz Sokol	NSSR/Anthropology	Zoe Carey	NSSR/Sociology	Jessica A. Joseph	NSSR/Psychology
Oliver Picek	NSSR/Economics	Douglas Piza	NSSR/Sociology	Zeynep Ustun	NSSR/Sociology
Kendall Stephenson	NSSR/Economics	Jeffery Berryhill	NSSR/Historical Studies	Aysegul Kayagil	NSSR/Sociology
Sam Koval	NSSR/Psychology	Mildred Ferrer	NSPE/Milano	Ian Howland	NSSR/Economics
Gabriella Santoro	NSSR/Psychology	Kea Fiedler	NSPE/Milano	Christopher Edwards	Parsons
Eli Nadeau	NSSR/Politics	Quan Tran	NSPE/Milano	Megan Beyer	NSSR/Philosophy
Amanda Zadorian	NSSR/Politics	Lena Simet	NSPE/Milano	Jordan Whelchel	NSSR/Philosophy
Benjamin Seel	NSSR/Politics	Hira Nabi	NSPE/Media Studies		

**On behalf of SENS-UAW**



### **Appendix 1**

Letter to the president: Copies of the letter we are planning to present to the president will be distributed at the event, and later will be posted online on our facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/SENSUAW>

### **Appendix 2: Transparency and inclusion policy.**

The students who are currently part of the organizing committee of SENS-UAW encourage the active participation of all students at the New School. There are two options:

1. Sign up to our mail list and receive our meeting agendas and minutes. Meetings are open and everyone is welcome to attend. To sign up, send your contact info to [union-sens-uaw@googlegroups.com](mailto:union-sens-uaw@googlegroups.com).
2. Become part of the organizing committee! Come to one of our meetings, help us out, decide on strategy, demands and the way forward.

Also, do not hesitate to contact us if you have comments, questions, or feedback about how we can better our union.