

February 20 2015, New York City

To whom it may concern,

As the elected members of the Graduate-Faculty Student Senate (GFSS), we support and encourage the efforts of the union of academic student employees at our school, Student Employees at the New School - International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (SENS-UAW). An overwhelming majority of more than 70% of Teaching Assistants, Research Assistants, Teaching Fellows, Graduate Assistants, Tutors, and other academic student employees has democratically chosen SENS-UAW as their union, giving them authorization to bargain collectively for them. We firmly believe that a university with a progressive and democratic tradition that is The New School must not deny academic student employees their right to unionize and collectively bargain over their own working conditions. Therefore, we urge the leadership of The New School to remain neutral and to respect the democratic choice of a majority of academic student employees by agreeing to a fair and efficient process to verify majority support for SENS-UAW and, upon doing so, to enter into collective bargaining negotiations with SENS-UAW at the earliest possible date.

This statement was approved by the GFSS on February 20, 2015.