



# Student Employees at The New School

## Union for Research and Teaching Assistants

December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016

Dear President Van Zandt,

Last spring, a super-majority of graduate employees at The New School signed an open letter demanding that the administration agree to a free and fair vote to verify majority support for unionization, and requesting that you recognize and bargain with SENS-UAW as our union after the vote. Despite a decisive ruling from the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) affirming union rights for students at private universities across the country, the New School administration has ignored our choice to unionize, and disregarded the consistent support for SENS-UAW that we have demonstrated since late 2014.

November's elections make clear that we cannot afford to wait for the NLRB. We face an incoming federal government that is hostile to unions and will do what it can to undermine them. Will you discard The New School's brave and progressive history to collude with the Trump administration? Or will you recognize our union and join working students in collective bargaining so that we may devote our energy to strengthening this institution to which we are so committed?

We the undersigned, representing student workers across The New School, write to inform you that we will wait no longer. If you continue to ignore our democratic choice, we will hold a strike authorization vote and, if the vote passes and it is still necessary, go on strike. We urge you to demonstrate that The New School is committed to justice and equality by voluntarily recognizing our union and joining us at the bargaining table.

We anticipate your reply by Monday, January 9, 2017, indicating whether we may proceed with a union election granted through your voluntary recognition of SENS-UAW. Should you choose to remain silent in response to our request, we will proceed toward a strike authorization vote.

**Noah Allison**, Milano  
**Tania Aparicio**, Sociology  
**Ritsarnt Avramidis**, Economics  
**Andres Bernal**, Milano  
**Zoe Carey**, Sociology  
**Orion Valles Codina**, Economics  
**Valentina Sarmiento Cruz**, Liberal Studies  
**Katyayani Dalmia**, Anthropology  
**Fattori Fraser**, ADHT/Parsons  
**Clayton Hartmann**, Psychology  
**Raven Hetzler**, Economics  
**Baki Guney Isikara**, Economics

**Louis Jargow**, Politics  
**Martha Susana Jaimes**, Milano  
**Sidra Kamran**, Sociology  
**Stephania Lato**, Historical Studies  
**Zachary Leamy**, Sociology  
**Xia Li**, Milano  
**Mammotsa Makhene**, Milano  
**Andrew Marpillero-Colomina**, Milano  
**Lena Simet**, Milano  
**Eli Nadeau**, Politics  
**Aaron Newman**, Liberal Studies  
**Oliver Picek**, Economics  
**Cagla Orpen**, Historical Studies

**Amy Osika**, Anthropology  
**Leticia Oxley**, ADHT/Parsons  
**Jerusalem Parsons**, Philosophy  
**Amir Sadeghi**, Economics  
**Rebecca Scheer**, Milano  
**Ibrahim Shikaki**, Economics  
**Monies Silva**, Milano  
**Angelica Stathapolous**, Philosophy  
**Alexios Tsigkas**, Anthropology  
**Zeno Ustun**, Sociology  
**James Wheeler**, Philosophy