

COMMUNICATION FROM YOUR UNION ABOUT RECENT CAMPUS PROTESTS

This letter is addressed to ALL members of the three bargaining units (PTF, SENS and SHENS) currently covered by collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) between ACT-UAW Local 7902 and the New School (TNS).

As you know, protests have been roiling the TNS campus over the war in Gaza, TNS investment policies, the treatment of student protestors, and the rights of student workers. We understand the outrage that many of you feel over these issues. However, as calls for TNS workers have been made to withhold their labor in connection with these protests, we are contractually obligated to inform you that those workers in units covered by CBAs are prohibited from engaging in strike activity, and risk significant consequences if they choose to do so.

All three CBAs contain NO STRIKE / NO LOCKOUT provisions that prohibit the Union and unit members from calling, instigating, engaging in, encouraging or sanctioning any strike. Specifically, these contracts provide, in relevant part:

The Union agrees that it will not, nor will it permit any member of the bargaining unit to call, instigate, engage or participate in or encourage or sanction any strike, sympathy strike, sit-down, slow-down or stoppage of work. Any ASW engaging in any conduct prohibited by this Article is subject to disciplinary action, including discharge.

Whatever our personal feelings may be concerning the issues motivating the current protests, the Union is required to, has, and will continue to abide by its contractual obligations. Therefore, first, we want to make it clear that the Union is not organizing, authorizing or supporting participation in any strike or job action by its unit members who are under contract. Further, we are required to, and in the strongest possible terms, urge unit members not to participate in any such action. Doing so may put you, your employment, and the Union at risk. Finally, if you have been participating in any such action, we call on you to cease such participation.

