



March 16, 2017

President Lee Bollinger
Columbia University
116th Street and Broadway
New York City, NY 10027

Contract Negotiations: Graduate Workers of Columbia UAW Local 2110

Dear President Bollinger:

We understand that the Regional NLRB has reviewed and recommended, "overruling...in their entirety" Columbia's objections to the December 2016 election in which research and teaching assistants voted overwhelmingly in favor of Graduate Workers of Columbia (GWC) UAW Local 2110.

We urge Columbia to respect the NLRB's affirmation of the democratic vote so that bargaining can commence without further delay.

Going back to December 2015, [many of us and our colleagues have urged your administration to respect the democratic choice of RAs and TAs on unionization.](#)

These workers, who provide critical service to the University, have made their choice clear repeatedly: not only in the overwhelming 1602-623 vote for unionization in December 2016, but then again a month later when a majority of RAs and TAs signed a petition asking you to drop your objections to the regional NLRB.

With a US president in office who did not even win the popular vote, and whose administration you have called "a challenge to what Columbia stands for," we urge you to resist any temptation to challenge the regional NLRB decision in Washington, DC.

The time is now to be on the right side of history. We urge you to embrace, rather than continue blocking, such a clear democratic choice by this critical group of workers on your own campus.

We look forward to a successful outcome to the upcoming negotiations.

Sincerely,

Public Advocate Tish James
Senator Liz Krueger
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
Assemblyman Danny O'Donnell

Comptroller Scott Stringer
Senator Toby Ann Stavisky
Assemblywoman Deborah Glick
City Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez