



Resolution in Support of the Graduate Workers of Columbia University (GWC-UAW Local 2110)

Whereas there is one Columbia University that grants degrees, and three corporate entities—Teachers College, Columbia University; Columbia University; and Barnard College—that house departments and schools, and offer instruction within Columbia University;

Whereas Ph.D. students at the corporate entities Teachers College, Columbia University and Columbia University are students of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences;

Whereas Graduate students from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences are employed by the corporate entity Columbia University in teaching and research capacities;

Whereas the corporate entity, Columbia University does not offer living wages, adequate benefits, clear workload expectations, and consistent and transparent employment policies to all of its employees;

Whereas Graduate students of Columbia University are unable to remedy these problems by collectively negotiating the conditions of their own employment with the corporate entity, Columbia University;

Whereas a strong majority of the approximately 2,800 Columbia University research and teaching assistants employed by the corporate entity, Columbia University support the formation of a union and collective bargaining, and have exercised their rights as workers to form a unit of the United Auto Workers: Graduate Workers of Columbia-United Auto Workers Local 2110 (GWC-UAW);

Whereas the administration of the corporate entity, Columbia University, led by President Lee Bollinger, and accountable to the trustees of the corporate entity, Columbia University, has not responded directly to the majority of research and teaching assistants' request to voluntarily recognize GWC-UAW and agree to a fair and expedient process to verify majority support and begin collective bargaining;

Whereas GWC-UAW has petitioned the National Labor Relations Board to recognize GWC-UAW;

Whereas the administration of the corporate entity, Columbia University, led by President Lee Bollinger has hired the infamous anti-union law firm Proskauer Rose to convince the NLRB to dismiss GWC-UAW;

Whereas President Bollinger, leader of the administration of the corporate entity, Columbia University, has said that worker rights for teaching assistants and research assistants are unnecessary because their relationship with the university is based on a “scholarly temperament” which transcend the need for a contract between employer and employee.

NOW THEREFORE On February 27, 2015, the Student Senate and thereby, the Student Body of Teachers College, Columbia University resolves the following:

1. The corporate entity, Columbia University, its administration, led by President Lee Bollinger, as well as the trustees to which that administration reports, immediately stop expending precious university resources impeding a democratic process, recognize GWC-UAW, agree to a fair and expedient process to verify majority support, and start bargaining; that
2. Whatever their temperament, scholars are people who work for a living and deserve living wages, adequate benefits, clear workload expectations, consistent and transparent employment policies, and all the benefits of collective bargaining; and that
3. The Student Senate, and thereby the Student Body of Teachers College, Columbia University, supports GWC-UAW in their efforts.