

## IN DECEMBER 2016, WE VOTED 1602 TO 623 IN FAVOR OF UNIONIZATION, WINNING BY A MARGIN OF NEARLY 1,000 BALLOTS.

A month later, an even stronger majority of Research and Teaching Assistants signed a petition urging the administration to drop their objections to our election and start bargaining.

After three years of majority support for our union,  
we will not rest until Columbia bargains with our union  
and we negotiate and approve a fair contract.

## HERE'S WHAT GWC-UAW HAS BEEN UP TO IN RECENT MONTHS: JANUARY - JUNE 2017



JAN

### A MAJORITY OF RAS + TAS, WITH 30,000 COMMUNITY ALLIES CALL ON COLUMBIA TO DROP THE OBJECTIONS

Immediately following the administration's decision to file objections to our election, we started a petition calling on them to drop the objections and respect the vote by coming to the bargaining table. Over 2,000 RAs and TAs, a growing majority of graduate workers, signed the petition along with over 30,000 members from our community. The regional National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) followed by recommending dismissal of the university's objections "in their entirety."

Nevertheless, President Bollinger continued to refuse to respect our clear, democratic mandate and continues to delay negotiating with our elected bargaining committee. While we expect the NLRB in Washington, DC, to dismiss the university's unsubstantiated objections and certify GWC-UAW Local 2110 as our union, we refuse to wait idly for their decision. President Bollinger has the power to respect our democratic mandate and come to the bargaining table now.



FEB  
APR

### PREPARING TO BARGAIN: 2,000 BARGAINING SURVEYS, ELECTED BARGAINING COMMITTEE, RATIFYING OUR INITIAL GOALS

The elected committee immediately got to work reviewing over two thousand bargaining surveys representing the desires of a majority of workers. Based on the surveys, the bargaining committee put together a set of initial bargaining goals; on April 24-30 these were ratified by a 91% yes vote. We are ready to negotiate with the university as soon as the administration recognizes GWC-UAW.



FEB

### RALLYING AGAINST THE MUSLIM TRAVEL BAN

At the start of the semester our International Student Working Group moved fast to organize against the new travel restrictions set by President Trump. Leading a coalition of campus organizations with members directly affected by the Muslim Ban, we organized a rally attended by at least 1,000 people, and began calling on the administration to extend specific, concrete protections and assistance to affected members of the Columbia community. Making Columbia a Sanctuary Campus has become one of our bargaining goals.



APR

### PRESIDENT BOLLINGER CHAIRS "FUTURE OF VOTING" COMMITTEE WHILE FIGHTING OUR DEMOCRATIC VOTE

"Nothing is more essential to a functioning democracy than the trust that citizens have in casting their ballots," President Bollinger said in a Columbia press release after being appointed co-chair of the National Academy of Sciences "Future of Voting" Committee in April 2017. Grad workers and others immediately pointed to a potential conflict between Bollinger's efforts to dismiss our democratic election and him leading a committee working to ensure the integrity of free and fair elections.

Graduate workers in over sixty departments signed a letter to the committee members, calling on them to join us in encouraging President Bollinger to respect the election results and start negotiations for our contract now.



APR

### MARCHING TO SAVE SCIENCE FUNDING

In April, GWC-UAW activists helped organize a coalition of organizations across the university to head down to Washington DC to March for Science. With three full buses to DC and a contingent that marched in New York City, we made our voices heard and don't want our momentum to stop there.



APR

### EDUCATING CONGRESSIONAL REPS ON STEM FUNDING & COLUMBIA'S REFUSAL TO BARGAIN

Following the March for Science, delegations of GWC organizers met with Congresswoman Grace Meng from the House Appropriations Committee. In addition to discussing the administration's refusal to respect our democratic vote for unionization, we spoke about the need for continued support of STEM funding.

We also met recently with Congressman Keith Ellison (Minnesota) and other NYC Congressional Representatives — Congressman Jerry Nadler, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Congressman Jose Serrano, and the staff of Congressman Joseph Crowley. We want to thank them for their support and look forward to working with them in the future, in negotiating for a fair contract but also on wider issues that affect our community — the Muslim ban, threats to Optional Practical Training (OPT) and H1-B visas, and the continued precarity of science funding.



MAY

### 2017 GRADUATES URGE BOLLINGER TO RESPECT OUR VOTE

Congratulations 2017 graduates! Many of this year's graduates were a big part of building our union, the past three years, and they helped show the university that they will continue to call on them to bargain now!

[Columbia College Class Day undergraduate TAs video](#)  
[University-wide commencement banner drop video](#)  
[University-wide commencement banner drop photos](#)  
[Columbia Spectator article on university-wide commencement](#)



JUN

### ALUMNI JOIN CHORUS CALLING ON COLUMBIA TO BARGAIN

In June, we announced our coalition of alumni supporters, including respondents from every class since 1955! They join the growing chorus of graduate workers and Columbia community members who call on the university to respect our democratic vote and bargain. GWC members also spoke with hundreds of alumni during Columbia's reunion weekend in June.



JUN

### AS THE GRADUATE UNION MOVEMENT CONTINUES TO GROW, COLUMBIA IS INCREASINGLY OUT OF STEP

Our historic legal victory last August, whereby the NLRB restored collective bargaining rights for Research and Teaching Assistants, gave a great boost to graduate worker organizing across the country. In May, RAs and TAs at The New School voted by a massive 502-2 margin to join us in the UAW and an election is now set for September 12-13 for UAW grad workers at Boston College. Unions at the University of Chicago and University of Pennsylvania have also recently filed for elections. Meanwhile, student workers at Yale, Brandeis, Tufts, American, and Loyola University Chicago have all won their union elections, and signs look positive to run a new election at Harvard.

University administrations at Cornell, The New School, Brandeis, Tufts, American, and Loyola University Chicago have all done what's right — they have agreed to respect their unions' democratic votes and come to the bargaining table. It's time for President Bollinger to respect our democratic vote, too.



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