

## **Statement from The New School**

The New School deeply values all our student workers. They make important contributions to our university, and we support their right to pursue representation under the process established by the NLRB.

We support the rights of our employees and student workers to unionize and have taken a position of neutrality during the New Student Workers Union (NewSWU) organizing process. We have relationships with nine unions on campus that represent our part-time faculty, student health workers, academic student workers, maintenance, and security workers, among others. We have always supported the rights of our workers to form or join a labor union; our focus is on making sure that our student workers' rights to organize and vote are respected.

Two weeks ago, we received a petition from the UAW Local 7902 to represent a group of currently unrepresented non-academic student workers encompassing over 100 different job titles involving several hundred workers. Instead of forming a separate bargaining unit, Local 7902's petition seeks to include these non-academic student workers in the existing SENS unit that represents approximately 1000 academic student workers. SENS members are currently covered under a contract that has been in effect since 2017.

The New School submitted a statement of position to the NLRB raising concerns that some of the job titles among the unrepresented group are already included in other recognized bargaining units. We also raised that non-academic student workers, who may work as orientation leaders or at the university's New Store, do not have the same type of roles and responsibilities as academic workers, including teaching fellows, research associates, course assistants, and tutors—and therefore would be better served by representation by a distinct union bargaining unit. In fact, this is what the union had previously sought and discussed with the university—a separate unit for non-academic student workers.

In addition, our position statement referred to a very recent NLRB decision finding that the funding sources for certain positions, such as federal work study, may impact the ability of those positions to be in a union.

We look forward to continuing dialogue with the union, and the resolution before the NLRB on all of these issues.