

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

HUMAN RESOURCES

January 30, 2018

Julie Kushner, Director
United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America
Region 9A
111 South Road
Farmington, CT 06032-2560

Dear Julie,

At the request of Maida Rosenstein, I am responding directly to you concerning the request by GWC-UAW Local 2110 to begin bargaining.

Columbia respectfully declines to bargain and will instead exercise its right to have the status of graduate student assistants reviewed by a United States Court of Appeals. We choose this path not based on a negative view of collective bargaining generally – Columbia has mature bargaining relationships with unions representing many employees – but because of our firm conviction that graduate student assistants are not employees, and that the fundamental and essential purposes of graduate education would be ill served by the intrusion of a third party between student and teacher. This is our first opportunity to have a federal court rule on this important issue for higher education.

Sincerely,



Dan Driscoll
Interim Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer
Columbia University
622 West 131 Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10027

cc: Maida Rosenstein
President, Local 2110 UAW