



November 22, 2022

Dwight A. McBride
President
The New School
66 West 12th Street
New York, NY 10011

Renee T. Wright
Provost
The New School
66 West 12th Street
New York, NY 10011

Dear President McBride and Provost Wright:

We stand with the nearly 1,700 part-time faculty members at The New School (“TNS”) who are fighting for a fair contract that provides a meaningful wage increase, no cuts to healthcare, and third-party protection from harassment and discrimination. We are disappointed to hear that TNS has held up negotiations and is refusing to bargain fairly, according to reports we’ve received.

We are especially saddened given the sacrifices that part-time faculty made throughout the pandemic. As you well know, part-time faculty pensions were frozen and they haven’t received a raise in four years -- resulting in a drop in real earnings of 18%. It is our understanding that by claiming poverty, TNS is offering only a 3.5% raise as their final offer. It appears that TNS is shortchanging part-time faculty while maintaining a generous administrative budget, over twice as large as that at comparable schools.

Although built as a progressive institution, we believe this position goes against the century-old values TNS was founded on. The refusal to consider the union's proposal for third party arbitration in instances of harassment and discrimination likewise demonstrates an unfortunate shift. This grievance procedure would protect the rights of women, people of color, and LGBTQ+ faculty at a time when those populations are being increasingly threatened. We believe that part-time faculty, who comprise 87% of the instructors at TNS, deserve better after faithfully serving TNS and their students in their time of greatest need.

We believe that the union's demands are just and we stand with part-time faculty in their fight for a fair contract. We offer this statement of support in the hope that it will help bring the TNS administration back to the table. The union's demands are reasonable and we expect TNS to consider the needs of their workers in good faith.

Please contact any of us should you have any questions about this important matter.

Sincerely yours,



Brad Hoylman
State Senator



Jerry Nadler
Congress Member



Jessica Ramos
State Senator
Chair of the Senate Labor Committee



Mark Levine
Manhattan Borough President



Liz Krueger
State Senator



Linda Rosenthal
Assembly Member

President McBride and Provost Wright

November 22

Page 3



Harvey Epstein
Assembly Member



Shaun Abreu
Council Member



Erik Bottcher
Council Member



Dick Gottfried
Assembly Member



Carlina Rivera
Council Member