



November 18, 2022

Dwight A. McBride, President
Renee T. Wright, Provost
66 West 12th Street
New York, NY 10003

Dear President McBride and Provost Wright,

We stand with the nearly 1,700 part-time faculty members at The New School 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 The New School has held up negotiations and is refusing to bargain fairly.

We are especially saddened given the sacrifices that part-time faculty made throughout the pandemic. 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%. Claiming poverty, the university is offering only a 3.5% raise as their final offer. They are 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, this position goes against the century-old values the university 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 The New School, deserve better after faithfully serving the university 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 university administration back to the table. The union's demands are reasonable and we expect the university to consider the needs of their workers in good faith.

Sincerely,



Erik Bottcher
Council Member
3rd Council District



Keith Powers
Majority Leader
4th Council District



Carlina Rivera
Council Member
2nd Council District



Christopher Marte
Council Member
1st Council District