



April 19, 2005

Graduate Employees and Students Organization
425 College St
New Haven, CT 06511
USA

Graduate Student Employees United
430 W. 119th St.
New York, NY 10027
USA

Greetings,

On behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers representing more than 48,000 academic staff at universities and colleges across Canada, we are writing to express our support for your members at Yale and Columbia, during their current efforts to gain union recognition. Your fight is an historic one that benefits not only yourselves, but the over 40,000 graduate teachers at private universities in the United States who look to you for inspiration.

We are greatly troubled that the National Labor Relations Board stripped graduate teachers of the right to organize collectively by denying them the protection of US labor law. This is a clear violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which declares that the right to form a union is a basic human right.

In our country, academic unions have been extremely important in helping to create and protect good jobs and positive working conditions as well as to defend academic freedom.

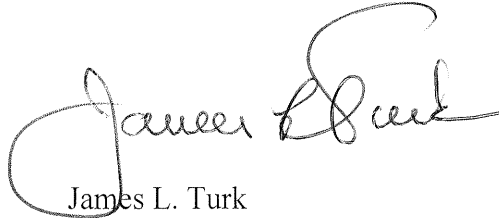
U.S. labor law may not extend to graduate teachers, but we expect institutions like Yale and Columbia to conform to a higher standard. We, therefore, are calling on Yale's President, Richard Levin, and Columbia's President, Lee Bollinger, to voluntarily recognize GESO and GSEU, respectively, and to immediately commence contract negotiations.

Once again, we commend your commitment and determination in taking this extraordinary action, and we stand with you in your struggle.

In solidarity,



Loretta Czernis
President



James L. Turk
Executive Director

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