



**UNITE  
HERE!**

March 14, 2018

To:

Fr. William P. Leahy, President, Boston College  
Lee Bollinger, President, Columbia University  
Jo Ann Rooney, President, Loyola University Chicago  
Robert Zimmer, President, University of Chicago  
Peter Salovey, President, Yale University

On behalf of the growing movement of graduate workers, national graduate worker unions and our 4.4 million members, we urge you to honor the critical work of research and teaching assistants at your university and to respect their democratic decision to unionize. American Federation of Teachers, United Auto Workers, UNITE HERE and Service Employees International Union, as well as our graduate worker leaders, are fully committed to working together across our unions to stand with the groundswell of graduate workers demanding a voice on the job through unions.

Since August 2016, in elections involving 18,000 research and teaching assistants at thirteen private universities and colleges, graduate workers have voted by a nearly 60 percent overall margin in favor of unionization. At many of the institutions where a majority voted yes, administrators have respected this decision and are now working cooperatively with graduate workers to negotiate agreements and ensure the best outcomes for the university, students and educators.

We are deeply disappointed that your administration is not among them. Despite clear votes in favor of unionization at your university, you have attempted to silence graduate workers by using the Trump National Labor Relations Board to rig the system against them. Your refusal to bargain with a democratically-chosen union both ignores the value of RAs and TAs as workers and contradicts the fundamental values for which your university stands.

We urge you to join other university administrations by changing course and respecting the voice of graduate workers.

Sincerely,

Dennis Williams  
President  
United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America

Randi Weingarten  
President  
American Federation of Teachers

Mary Kay Henry  
President  
Service Employees International Union

D. Taylor  
President  
UNITE HERE