



Sinai Student Workers-UAW <info@sinaistudentworkers.org>

Mount Sinai 1G (MS1G): Solidarity with Student's Decision on Unionization

1 message

1G, Sinai <sinai1g@mssm.edu>

Mon, May 22, 2023 at 12:00 PM

To: ERIC NESTLER <eric.nestler@mssm.edu>, MARTA FILIZOLA <marta.filizola@mssm.edu>

Bcc: info@sinaistudentworkers.org

Dear graduate school administrations,

Mount Sinai 1G (MS1G) represents first-generation college graduates at Sinai. We stand in solidarity with our fellow scientific workers in the struggle for improved and fair working conditions within higher education and research fields. We ask that the Mount Sinai administration remain neutral and refrain from any effort to influence the student worker's decision on unionization.

Best,

MS1G leadership

 **1G-Neutrality letter.pdf**
54K

Subject: Solidarity with Sinai Student Workers - UAW and Ask for Neutrality from Sinai Administration

1G at Mount Sinai
sinai1g@mssm.edu
April 14, 2023

Summary: **We stand in solidarity with our fellow scientific workers in the struggle for improved and fair working conditions within higher education and research fields. We ask that the Mount Sinai administration remain neutral and avoid any effort to influence the student worker's decision on unionization.**

To the Mount Sinai Community,

With the recent support from the majority of PhD and MD/PhD graduate student workers at ISMMS to bargain collectively for improved pay, benefits, and overall working conditions, we as student leaders of 1G or first-generation graduates at Sinai stand in solidarity with this effort. We firmly believe in the student worker's right to unionize, providing their pivotal contribution to scientific advances, building a community, and shaping the culture of Mount Sinai.

Academic and research institutions benefit tremendously from the work of graduate student workers who shoulder an untenable workload without appropriate compensation. This goes beyond the scientific contributions as graduate students' efforts in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion through affinity groups like SEOS, 1G, oSTEM, etc. are usually not compensated and oftentimes go unrecognized even though Mount Sinai is the beneficiary of such effort.

Following the pandemic, living expenses in NYC increased exponentially, placing a hefty burden on students and especially on those whose accommodations cannot be met by Aron Hall housing. This places additional stress on all students who are working tirelessly in the lab and several campus organizations. Among the 1G student leaders, we recognize these issues to be extremely relevant to many 1G students, who oftentimes come from disadvantaged backgrounds and thus lack the financial resources and external support.

Graduate student workers are especially vulnerable to mistreatment, harassment, and lack of accommodations given the individual working conditions are up to the discretion of the lab's PI, which results in highly variable and oftentimes unfair treatment of student employees. Hence, Unions provide a way for students to seek accountability from Mount Sinai in addressing racism, transphobia, ableism, and other forms of harassment, mistreatment, and oppression within the institution. Student workers at many academic institutions across the United States have made headway in these and other areas by forming their respective Unions.

We ask that the Mount Sinai administration remain neutral and avoid any effort to influence the student workers' decision on unionization or delay procedures for verifying

majority support and beginning the bargaining process. As student leaders of 1G at Sinai, we promise to continue our mission to build a community of first-generation graduates at Sinai while the Union engages in collective bargaining, something that 1G does not have the authority to do.

Signed,

Tri Dong
Mariana Liang
Kamryn du Plessis