



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

SEOS: Solidarity with Student's Decision on Unionization

1 message

SEOS Sinai <seos.sinai@gmail.com>

Mon, May 22, 2023 at 12:00 PM

To: seos-mssm@googlegroups.com

Cc: MARTA FILIZOLA <marta.filizola@mssm.edu>, "Nestler, Eric (MSSM)" <eric.nestler@mssm.edu>

Bcc: info@sinaistudentworkers.org

Dear SEOS Members,

SEOS stands 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,

SEOS



SEOS neutrality letter.pdf

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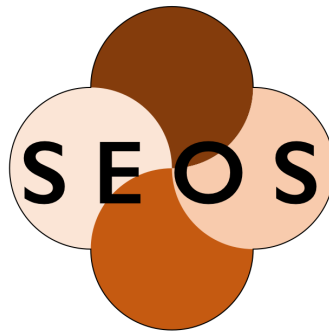
Subject: Solidarity with Sinai Student Workers - UAW and Ask for Neutrality from Sinai Administration

Student for Equal Opportunity in Science (SEOS)

seos.sinai@gmail.com

April 26, 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 refrain from any effort to influence the student worker's decision on unionization.**



Students for Equal
Opportunity in Science

To the Mount Sinai Community,

With the 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 Students for Equal Opportunity in Science (SEOS) stand in solidarity with this effort.** Graduate students' monumental contributions to scientific research are evident in Mount Sinai's prestige as one of the premier research institutes in the United States. Hence, having established themselves as a pivotal unit of the ISMMS community, we firmly believe in student workers' right to unionize.

Academic and research institutions benefit tremendously from the work of graduate students not only in scientific research but also in community building and shaping the culture of Mount Sinai. For instance, affinity groups like SEOS, oSTEM, 1G, THAW, etc., which are led by graduate students themselves, have worked tirelessly to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the graduate school. These efforts are often used as a substance to recruit the next generation of trainees, a process in which graduate student workers are also expected to partake. However, most of these works often go without appropriate compensation. In fact, the current stipend does not fully represent the tremendous work coming from graduate student workers. Facing continuous inflation in NYC living expenses, the lack of a liveable wage further places graduate

students in financial difficulties, especially those whose accommodations cannot be met by Aron Hall housing. Among the SEOS leaders, we recognize these issues to be extremely relevant to students from marginalized backgrounds, who oftentimes come from low socioeconomic status and thus lack the financial resources and 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. This results in highly variable and often unfair treatment of student employees. Further, it places an additional burden on graduate students having to advocate for themselves. 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 refrain from 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 SEOS, we promise to continue upholding our mission to promote diversity in science and build support for students from marginalized backgrounds at Sinai while the Union engages in collective bargaining, something that SEOS does not have the authority to do.

Signed,

Tri Dong
Jacqueline Beltrán
Rachel Fisher
Adriana Mendez