

[Subject: Fundraising to support the Student Workers of Columbia]

Dear **XXXXXXXXX**,

I am writing as a member of the [Student Workers of Columbia](#) (SWC) who are currently in negotiations to reach our first contract. Student workers are striking for core demands including a living wage, dental insurance, and neutral third-party arbitration and the university is withholding our pay while on strike. We need your support, please [donate to our Hardship Fund today](#).

At repeated bargaining sessions, Columbia lawyers have maintained a disingenuous position that the demands of SWC for a living wage are not realistic. It is hard to see how these demands are not feasible nor realistic. Columbia made an unprecedentedly high \$3.3 billion during the pandemic. President Bollinger makes the average student worker's salary in 2.5 days. Despite being one of the highest paid Ivy League school presidents, he did not take a pay cut during the pandemic, while other presidents at peer institutions did. Columbia would prefer to spend absurd sums on union-busting lawyers, the money which could otherwise go toward helping graduate student workers receive fair compensation for their work. Columbia's refusal to meet the demands of student workers who fulfill critical research and teaching for the university demonstrates the skewed priorities of the University.

Furthermore, it is hard to rationalize Columbia's repeated refusal to establish systems of neutral arbitration. Existing channels such as the EOAA are woefully insufficient as there is no option to appeal to a neutral third party in the adjudication process. If survivors are forced to make claims against their supervisors or other people in positions of power, student workers are put in precarious positions as their claims are adjudicated by affiliates of the University. Columbia has a proven track record of failing to protect its student workers ([Example 1](#), [Example 2](#), among many others).

While student workers remain on strike, Columbia is withholding our pay and we need your help. As we fight to transform our working conditions, many of us are struggling to pay our rent, buy groceries, and pay for our kid's child care.

Please consider [donating to our Hardship Fund](#), which supports student workers while on strike. We would also appreciate you sharing our Hardship Fund on social media and passing it along to other friends and family members.

Thank you for your support, we couldn't do it without your generosity.

In solidarity,

XXXXX