



Northeastern

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Dear Provost Bean:

The graduate students in the English Department recently informed us of the negative university communications they have received in response to their unionization efforts, as well as the ways the university has frustrated efforts for them to meet and debate their decisions on campus.

We recognize collective bargaining as a fundamental right of American workers. As such, we support the students' right to freely discuss their options for collective bargaining with the representation of their choice. Insofar as the National Labor Relations Board has ruled that graduate students are not exempt from collective bargaining rights, we call on the university and the administration to recognize and affirm the rights of our graduate students.

Hence, we ask that our administration adopt a position of neutrality regarding graduate student unionization efforts and cease all communications to graduate students which could be seen as coercive, intimidating, or harassing, or which portray unionization negatively. The administration's opposition to the students' efforts is inconsistent with Northeastern's values and mission, seems calculated only to further alienate graduate students, and is deeply disappointing to the faculty of the English Department.

As faculty, we join our colleagues from other departments in calling on the administration and the university to allow students on-campus space and time to freely discuss their options as regards unionization, to accept the outcome of their decision, and not to involve our community in a divisive challenge to a legitimate process.

Respectfully,

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Sari Altschuler
Erika Boeckeler
Elizabeth Britt
Hillary Chute
Ryan Cordell
Theo Davis
Elizabeth Maddock Dillon
Julia Flanders
Gary Goshgarian
Laura Green
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