



GSOc-UAW LOCAL 2110

MAKING A BETTER NYU SINCE 1998

The Union for Graduate Employees at New York University

Statement in Support of One Member, One Vote Election System for UAW Leadership

To our fellow workers and union siblings of UAW-Local 2110:

We are reaching out to discuss the future of this union that we are honored to share with you. We look to all of you as our comrades, and to some of you as leaders and elders, in our ongoing struggle for control of our working conditions, our pay, and our lives across our unique gathering of New York City workplaces. As part of our responsibility to each other, we are writing to address the series of deep betrayals of our trust by key leaders in the International, which has precipitated a UAW-wide crisis of leadership that could devastate many of our members and the labor movement at large. It is our position that this crisis poses a real threat to our union even beyond the immediate harm of the lost resources and anti-worker bargaining. But we also believe that it holds a historic possibility for establishing more robust union democracy. **As a unit, we have voted in support of Local 2110 joining 15 other locals in passing [an Article 8 resolution](#), with the ultimate goal of establishing a one member, one vote referendum election system to replace our current anti-democratic delegation process.**

As you all know, the small leadership that stands atop our union of 400,000 workers has been mired in corruption scandal after scandal for years. From [Dennis Williams' nearly-\\$300,000 retirement home](#), built by non-union labor and paid for by interest from our strike fund, to the reports of dues-funded Palm Springs golf vacations with \$400/bottle champagne that contributed to [the resignation of Gary Jones](#) and the [new charges against sitting president Rory Gamble](#), these blatant abuses of power are as embarrassing as they are exhausting. These transgressions hurt our membership on at least three counts: they are egregious wastes of our wages, they open up our union to reactionary critique and attack, and they degrade trust and morale throughout the entire organization. As a result of this shameful saga, [the federal government is poised to take over our union](#).

We need a response, and a change, proportionate to the problems in the UAW. When three consecutive presidents have proven unworthy of workers' trust, those problems are deep and systemic, and cannot be addressed by simply replacing president after president. One problem that has been made clear through this ordeal is that we lack a process to hold our leadership at the International accountable. Under the current arrangement, only a small handful of our 400,000 members will even have a chance to cast a vote against the establishment that has so painfully failed to represent their interests. We can no longer continue to operate this way and tell ourselves that the IAW is a democratic institution. As members of the UAW, and as

workers, we have to take action and build the union we want and need, with representation that we choose together, who are accountable to all of us.

Following the lead of longtime organizers in several of the many industries unionized under the banner of the UAW, but especially those from the auto industry that birthed the UAW, we are calling for a simple but powerful step toward union democracy: one member, one vote. To do this, we must resolve together as Local 2110 to call for a special convention. If we break a threshold at the national level, it will trigger a referendum. If a simple majority votes for a special convention, Locals will elect delegates to attend, and there we can work to amend the UAW constitution. We believe that this is a rare opportunity to improve our union, to involve and engage a much broader base of rank and file members, to restore faith and trust across the UAW, and to emerge stronger, more united, and better positioned to do the work we're organized to do. We hope that you will agree, and we warmly invite discussion and concerns.

In Solidarity,
GSOC-UAW Local 2110

For more information about the one member, one vote campaign and Unite All Workers for Democracy, visit <https://uawd.org>.