

Statement:

Since July, The New School has been engaged in ongoing negotiations with SHENS-UAW Local 7902—the union representing our Student Health Workers, a group of 18 employees who provide healthcare services to our students. On November 27, SHENS presented the university with a notice indicating an intent to strike starting on December 8, subject to continued negotiations towards a successor contract during this period.

We are disappointed that the union has taken this action, especially as we have made good progress towards an agreement in recent bargaining sessions. The university has also offered to utilize a federal mediator to help move negotiations forward, which the union has declined. We are scheduled for another bargaining session on November 29 and are available to continue to meet regularly with the union. We have proposed an agreement that raises total compensation, expands retirement benefits, provides student loan support, and establishes a professional development fund, among other benefits. The university remains focused on reaching a strong, equitable, and fair contract as quickly as possible that recognizes the important role these employees play in our community.

Nothing is more important to The New School than the health and wellbeing of our students, and the university has a responsibility—and is required by law—to ensure that these vital student health services are maintained. In the event we do not reach an agreement and a work stoppage occurs, we will communicate directly with students about their continued access to care.