

A COVID CHARTER OF DEMANDS FOR STUDENTS

Where do we turn when there are no good options??!!

Remote learning

prevents student organizing and doesn't provide an adequate learning experience.



In-person classes

without proper safety precautions put students and staff in danger.

We don't have to choose — both remote and reopen scenarios, as they've been carried out so far, have stalled education, compromised our safety, and weakened the student movement.

Just like businesses, universities take advantage of the pandemic to further their own interests: cutting costs and implementing permanent changes, like the move to virtual learning. This harmful tendency can also be seen in the replacement of workers with self-check-out machines at grocery stores. **Universities will make full use of this opportunity if we let them.**

In order for students to win demands, we need to organize and demonstrate. But closed campuses and bans on gatherings make it impossible — dispersing us and keeping us weak. A premature and rushed return to campus is a safety risk, but keeping teachers and students away from the physical campus prevents their organization and collective action. **If it's safe enough to go to class, campuses should be fully open!**

We refuse to put our lives on hold because the state and schools won't formulate the plans and spend the money to keep us safe. During surges we need short, temporary closures, but as the waves die down we need safety measures in place so we can return to campus.

We demand FREE and EQUAL access to a SAFE and QUALITY education:

- 1. Suspend all tuition NOW** - and for the remainder of the pandemic.
- 2. Safely and FULLY reopen campus** - give students full access to the entire campus and school resources. Implement vaccine and mask requirements as necessary.
- 3. Offer a remote option in all courses** - for students who cannot risk in-person learning. In case of another surge, be prepared to go fully remote if needed.
- 4. Provide free, high-grade PPE** - in sufficient quantities for students, teachers, and staff.
- 5. Rehire all teachers and staff laid off during the pandemic** - and no more job cuts! Guaranteed protections for faculty and staff unable to work in-person.

For student-labor solidarity against the attacks of the bourgeoisie!

Since the start of the pandemic, universities have used the crisis as an excuse to attack workers.

Administrators at universities across the country responded to diminished tuition revenue by laying off faculty and staff en masse. In New York City alone, CUNY laid off almost 3,000 employees, mostly adjuncts and part-time staff in 2020; The New School dropped the axe on 122 workers.

These draconian cuts will continue as the crisis unfolds. William Paterson College in New Jersey has proposed eliminating 150 professors, nearly 40% of their full-time faculty, over the next three years in the face of declining enrollment and a budget deficit. Last-minute course cancellations due to low enrollment have left many CUNY adjuncts without jobs this semester. **As in all sectors, the bosses have and will continue to ride out the crisis on the backs of the working people.**

On top of the looming threat of continued layoffs, university workers have also been subjected to unsafe working conditions. During the ongoing Omicron wave, CUNY has required staff –even those whose jobs can be completed remotely – to continue to work primarily in-person without providing them adequate PPE. CUNY also lacks a vaccine mandate for its employees, putting students and staff at unnecessary risk. The insistence on in-person activity in the midst of record-high cases reflects a complete indifference towards the well-being of the school's staff, faculty, and students. **Universities have shown, time and time again, that they will prioritize their own financial interests above all else.**

In the face of attacks by the bourgeoisie, the labor movement has responded in the form of strikes and unionization drives, across sectors and industries including higher ed. In December of last year, the University of California system recognized Student Researchers United-UAW in its entirety, representing over 17,000 workers. The recently-concluded Columbia student worker strike showed militant struggle against the administration's refusal to put forward a fair contract. **Students should support these developments as an opportunity to build collective power on campus and advance the position of revolutionary socialism.**

Revolutionary students must seize on this moment in the labor movement by uniting ourselves not just with our organized comrades on campus, but with the entire working class, to aid their militancy and defend their interests. **Towards an expansion of student-labor solidarity during the crisis and beyond!**

COVID is the symptom, capitalism is the crisis.

Socialism is the solution.

Join the May Day Student Organization: bit.ly/joinmdso

