



Graduate Student Employees United

GSEU/Local 2110 UAW

September 30th, 2003

Dear President Bollinger:

As members of GSEU-UAW, Columbia's teaching and research assistants' union, we have grown increasingly concerned about the effect of recent legislation on international students. New visa processing procedures adopted since The Patriot Act have put all international students at an increased risk of discrimination, and thousands of students across the country—including many here at Columbia—have been directly impacted. Of particular concern is the wide-spread economic and academic hardships that international students have suffered as a result of major delays in visa processing and renewal.

Currently your administration lacks a clear policy on how to handle visa delays, with the result being that each case is treated in an ad hoc manner. Please find attached our proposal for a **Columbia University Policy on Visa Delays**. Since the semester began, we've worked in concert with many student organizations, and several, including **Columbia ACLU**, the **Columbia University Muslim Students Association**, and **Action for Immigrants Rights** have officially endorsed our proposed policy. All of us feel that simple administrative changes could alleviate many of the problems that international students face, and therefore we recommend that you read the attached proposal and adopt the measures therein.

Sincerely,
The Organizing Committee, GSEU-UAW
Maida Rosenstein, President Local 2110