



UNION OF GRINNELL STUDENT DINING WORKERS
GRINNELL, IOWA

CORY McCARTAN
PRESIDENT

September 20, 2017

Raynard S. Kington
President, Grinnell College
Nollen House
1121 Park St
Grinnell, IA 50112

Dear Dr. Kington:

When I was looking at colleges, one of the things that really attracted me to Grinnell was its dedication to its core values. Grinnell has more than a “commitment” to social justice; it has a long history of turning that commitment into action. From its founding by abolitionists through the establishment of the Grinnell Prize, the college has always recognized that integral to its educational mission is a duty to work towards positive social change.

Grinnell also values self-governance, something which “has been and continues to be an important element of Grinnellian identity,” according to the Task Force on Residential Learning. The opportunity to have a say in decisions that affect them—and the responsibility that comes with it—makes students’ educational experience richer.

This afternoon, UGSDW announced a new campaign to unionize all student workers on campus, which, if successful, would make Grinnell the most unionized campus in the United States. I hope you will welcome these efforts as a continuation and an embodiment of Grinnell’s foundational values. Student employees deserve a voice in their workplace. UGSDW can provide that voice.

In the past, Grinnell has maintained a position of neutrality with regard to unionization of student workers. I urge the college to continue this practice, and not to engage in the kind of destructive anti-union tactics that Yale, Harvard, and other universities have. Student workers should be able to decide for themselves, democratically, whether or not they want union representation. To that end, I have enclosed a proposed Neutrality and Card Check Agreement, which I hope the college will sign. A clear commitment to neutrality from the college would help ensure a fair and free process.

If you have any questions or concerns about the unionization process, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you.

Respectfully,

Cory McCartan

Enclosure