

April 14, 2023

To the Skidmore community,

Last month, Skidmore's Resident Assistants (RAs) announced their intention to form a union chapter with SEIU Local 200. The negotiating committee of Skidmore Faculty Forward, the union of Non-Tenure Track faculty at Skidmore and fellow SEIU members, offer our enthusiastic support to these valuable student workers. We support the RAs right to unionize and look forward to the results of their NLRB election and to making progress to improve their working conditions.

Resident Assistants perform invaluable work on Skidmore's campus. Particularly during a season of increased enrollment and the ensuing housing crunch, the work of these student employees is vital to ensuring safe living conditions on campus. When we announced our intention to unionize last spring, we argued—and continue to maintain—that faculty working conditions are student learning conditions. The same holds true of student housing: student living conditions are student learning conditions. The RAs are essential to the college's ability to offer a robust college education; this work should therefore be recognized with fair compensation and stable working conditions.

We also applaud the hard work necessary to accomplish this remarkable achievement. Organizing can be arduous, and this announcement confirms that these student workers have shown unflagging dedication to establishing better working conditions not only for themselves, but for RAs in years to come. These students are emblematic of Skidmore's core ideals: engaged, responsible citizens dedicated to bettering the world around them. The RAs have shown themselves to be an example for others on campus—other students, but also other faculty and staff. To have come this far in the process already merits celebration, and shows these students' dedication to justice and equity, on campus and beyond.

Skidmore Faculty Forward is proud to welcome Skidmore RAs into the union community. We stand in solidarity with these student workers as they move toward their election and ultimately to the bargaining table.

In solidarity,

The Skidmore Faculty Forward Negotiating Committee