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May 3, 2002

Chancellor Marcellette Williams
374 Whitmore Administration Building
181 Presidents Dr
Amherst, MA 01003-9313

Dear Chancellor Williams:

I write you today after I have learned about your University's actions towards its RA union (UAW Local 2322). As you are doubtless aware, Local 2322 held and won an election entitling it to represent Residence Assistance in collective bargaining. However, in violation of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 150E, the University is refusing to bargain with the newly-formed union. I urge you to reconsider that decision and to stop wasting taxpayers' money on union-busting.

Further, it is critical you drop all criminal charges against those students who occupied Vice Chancellor Cevallos' office recently. These students were simply demanding their rights, as guaranteed under State and Federal law, to form a union, and should not face criminal charges for making those demands known.

I urge you, then, that you will drop the criminal charges, and bargain with UAW Local 2322. I await your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Michael Castleman
Member, UAW Local 2110, Columbia
University

cc: F. Javier Cevallos, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Jo-Ann Vanin, Dean of Students