

**Office of the President**

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March 26, 2019

Jim Wyatt, President  
Donnie Blackwell, Vice President, NEJB Local 164  
Bon Appetit  
C/O Hampshire College

Dear Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Blackwell,

We're writing to address the misunderstanding over your joining with a group of students to deliver a letter to Blair Hall last Thursday, March 21. First we wish to express our appreciation for your work and the work of your food service colleagues as employees of Bon Appetit in service to Hampshire College. We recognize the daily contributions of Bon Appetit employees to the quality of student life and campus life, with some food service staff having worked as employees of the College's dining contractors for years and decades. You are part of our community and we sincerely thank and appreciate you.

We were not in the building last Thursday afternoon when you attempted to visit, and in fact, no administrators were there. You were joined by a group of a dozen students, as your photo on Facebook shows, and observers said you entered the Blair Hall administration building through a back door. You had not scheduled a meeting and were not expected either as individuals or as a group by staff in the building, so your group's purpose was unclear to them. The size of the group and choice of entry through a back door raised concerns among the building's staff.

It's important for you to know that three weeks before, on Thursday, February 28, a group of student protesters demonstrated in the same building. Those students made their way into that same second-floor office space, pounded on office doors and jumped up and down and stomped on the floor, frightening staff throughout the building. Some also videotaped staff members without their consent and attempted to use credit cards to pick locks into private offices.


Because of that upsetting experience for staff only a few weeks ago, we hope you can appreciate why the staff was reluctant to allow your group into their office space without an appointment.

We openly and regularly meet with students and any and all community members, but the College expects respectful discourse that follows our community norms and values.

Hampshire College is not empowered to discuss employment terms with the food service staff, as that responsibility falls to Bon Appetit. However, if you're interested in a general conversation, we'd be happy to meet with you both or with any of your colleagues as members of our community. Please call or email us to schedule a meeting.



Miriam Nelson, PhD  
President



Mary McEneaney  
Vice President for Finance and Administration