



# Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers

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## AFSCME Local 3650

15 Mount Auburn Street  
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February 23, 2009

Dear Friend at Queen's University,

Before our union election in 1988, some people told us that the unions' day had come and gone. They said unions had done good work years ago: helped build a middle class; created pensions and made them commonplace; advocated for child labor laws; and limited the work week to 40 hours. But now, we were told, the work is done and we don't need unions any more. We were also told that a union would not fit in the Harvard University context.

We found out for ourselves that unions are as important today as they ever were. You and your fellow staff at Queen's University probably face a lot of the same situations that we at Harvard do: the modern family needs more security, more flexibility, and more time. During this economic crisis, those of us who are in unions will have more protection and more opportunities than those who are not.

For us at Harvard, the most important thing we gained in forming our own union was that we now have a place at the table. When decisions are being made that affect us—our lives, our jobs—we now have a real way to participate in those decisions. We gained a collective voice in our community, a voice that is heard and respected.

We voted our union in more than twenty years ago, and it was the best decision we've ever made. Our union represents 4,800 administrative and technical employees at Harvard University. With our union, we have greater agility in balancing our lives at home and at work. We encourage you to say yes to your union, and to start your journey of steady progress for yourselves and your institution.

Sincerely,

HUCTW Executive Board

Tasha Williams, President  
Office of Human Resources

Gloria Buffonge, VP  
Business School

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WCFIA

Kasia Razynska, Secretary  
LASPAU

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Business School

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Steve Sweeney  
University Information Systems

Scott Lozier  
FAS Sciences

Lynn Wang Delacey  
FAS Arts

Andra Hibbert  
JFK School of Government

Carrie Barbash  
LASPAU

P.S. If you'd like to talk with one of us or have questions about our union, please call. Ask for Tasha at (617) 661-8289, and we'd be happy to talk with you.