

# SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

March 16, 2017

Dear Sarah Lawrence Community,

As we approach the construction phase of the Barbara Walters Campus Center, scheduled to begin during winter break next year, we have continued to involve members of the community in the planning process. Over many months, faculty, staff, and students have met in workgroups and planning groups to advise on the building's design, atmosphere, and function. These have been crucial discussions in helping the College plan the best campus center for the Sarah Lawrence community, one consistent with its priorities and values.

As part of our commitment to an open consultation process, three community discussions were held during the week of March 6th for faculty, staff and students to comment on two options for awarding sub-contracts for construction: allowing both union and non-union firms to bid on sub-contracts, with a commitment to award a majority to union firms or, alternatively, permitting only union firms to bid. We felt it was important to discuss this question through an open dialogue with the community. The tenor and tone of these discussions varied; the predominant community perspective did not. Throughout these sessions and via follow-up emails, supporting exclusively union contracts emerged as a deeply-held value.

Based on the opinions provided and with appropriate consultation with members of the College's Board of Trustees, we have decided to award the sub-contracts for the campus center construction to union firms only. With this decision, we will work to complete the design of the Campus Center and continue consulting the planning groups to incorporate as many top priorities as possible in terms of program and design. As with all aspects of the Barbara Walters Campus Center, your perspectives are valued and we thank you for your input. We look forward to keeping you updated as the project progresses.

Have a safe and enjoyable Spring Break--looking forward to seeing you when Spring has finally arrived.

Sincerely,

Karen Lawrence, President, Sarah Lawrence College

Stephen Schafer, Vice President for Finance and Operations, Sarah Lawrence College