

Tulane University Solidarity Committee
tulanesolidarity@gmail.com

April 6, 2010

Dear President Cowen,

On March 25th we presented a letter to your office addressing the wrongs that our contracted food service provider, SODEXO, is committing against our food service workers. We asked that you uphold our core values—humanity, openness, integrity, courage, and excellence—and take the lead that we as students expect from you by implementing a labor code of conduct, defending our workers' right to organize free from intimidation, and demanding that Sodexo grant current employees the first right of recall. We asked that you provide a response affirming your commitment to these goals no later than this Thursday, April 8th. We write you now to reaffirm these demands and to extend an invitation to you to present your response to the Tulane community directly at a barbeque that we are holding on Friday April 9th to celebrate the workers on our campus.

The need for Tulane University to take the initiative among major American universities in ensuring fair labor practices is reflected in the irresponsible and illegitimate responses that other similar student campaigns for worker rights have received from their universities (see the attached response from Emory University to their students). We refuse to accept any position that dismisses the responsibility Tulane owes to its community or violates Tulane's mission to promote social justice and leadership. The vulnerability of our workers to the unethical practices of Sodexo is greater now than ever as they have courageously come together to improve their working conditions; we as students will not abandon them in their time of need.

Instead, we offer you the opportunity to join us in our mission to make a difference in our community, and we invite you to take your first step at our day of celebration for our workers on the afternoon of April 9th. We remind you that Tulane University has the unquestionable power to demand better behavior from its contractors, and it is Tulane University that is ultimately responsible for the working conditions on our campus.

In your most recent Tulane Talk you spoke of meeting with prospective students that value our university because of our community engagement and commitment to leadership. These are the very reasons why an affirmative response to our demands is necessary now. We believe that you possess the wisdom, character, and strength to stay true to your word and our values. We ask that you do not prove that we hold these beliefs in vain.

We are available to coordinate your speaking time, to receive your response to our demands, or for any additional information you require at tulanesolidarity@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Amnesty International
TUSC