

Results from the PSC membership survey

By SHOMIAL AHMAD

Nearly 9,000 union members, close to one-third of the membership, responded to the PSC's first-ever electronic survey. It was available to members in the latter half of May. One poll administrator who conducts union surveys noted that such a turnout was "as good a response rate [as] you can hope for."

Members answered survey questions at a critical time for the union. Last year, the PSC settled a long overdue contract, and later this fall the union will begin a new round of contract negotiations. (The current PSC-CUNY contract expires on November 30, 2017. See page 3 for more.)

ISSUES AHEAD

"The survey results will be important in helping the union to shape priorities," wrote PSC President Barbara Bowen in an email to members in May. "The results will also enable us to organize with you on campus to change the conditions that need to be changed."

Besides negotiating a new contract, the PSC, along with other public-sector unions, is likely to face a US Supreme Court decision from a conservative-majority court that will attack the union's ability to maintain its financial and political strength.

"Knowing what matters to you is even more urgent as the Trump administration attempts to deliver a deathblow to unions' power," stressed Bowen in her email to members.

BIG RESPONSE

The detailed survey asked a range of questions: concerning the importance of past contract wins,

Members weigh in on union issues

the level of satisfaction with the recently settled union contract and

Helping the union shape priorities

identify the relative importance of future contract priorities and of paying union dues. The high response rate provides a strong cross-section of members' views, but the survey was not conducted as a random sample

and may not be fully representative of the bargaining unit as a whole. With nearly a third of PSC members responding, the survey results reflect the views of those who responded, and they're not necessarily representative of the bargaining unit as a whole. Response rates also varied by job title, from a high of 49 percent for

full-time CLTs to a low of 13 percent for Continuing Education Teachers. (See June/July *Clarion* for a list of response rates by title series.)

The graphs below show the responses on issues facing the union now – and in the future. Complete survey results will be published later this fall.

PSC MEMBER PRIORITIES The results for this graph show where more than 30 percent of respondents identified an issue as one of their top three contract priorities for the new contract. The high prioritization that respondents in part-time titles gave to "increasing per-course pay for adjuncts to \$7,000" pushed the issue up among

all members' priorities. Increased salary was clearly a top issue (72.8 percent); timely contract settlement (39.5 percent) and job security (38.1 percent) were other issues identified among the top three concerns for many members.

FACULTY AND STAFF IDENTIFY THEIR TOP PRIORITIES Separated by members' title series, these graphs show the five issues that were most often included in respondents' top three priorities.

● In all branches, over 60 percent of respondents included increased salaries among their top three priorities.

● Over half of HEO and CLT respondents included timely con-

tract settlement among their top three priorities.

● Two potentially competing high-priority demands are \$7,000 per course for adjuncts and timely contract settlement.

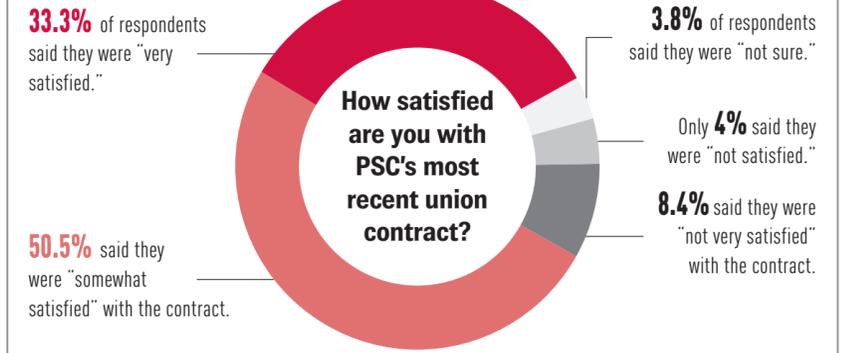
● Nearly half of adjunct faculty and HEO respondents included job security in their top three priorities.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PAYING UNION DUES If the Supreme Court limits public sector unions' ability to collect dues or agency fees, an overwhelming majority of survey respondents (78 percent) said that it is "very important" for everyone to continue to pay their fair share; 14 percent said it was "somewhat important."

FACULTY TEACHING ONLINE COURSES With 28 percent of full-time faculty respondents and 16.7 percent of adjunct faculty respondents reporting that they have taught or developed an online course at CUNY, protecting the rights of faculty who teach online courses is becoming a more pressing concern.

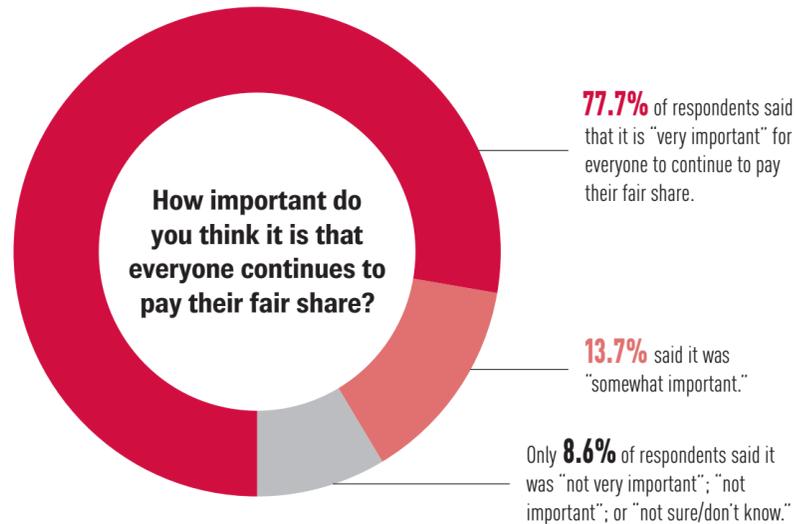
Satisfaction With the Most Recent Contract

Survey respondents rated their level of satisfaction with the most recent contract on a four-point scale: "very satisfied"; "somewhat satisfied"; "not very satisfied" and "not satisfied"; or, "not sure." **83.8 percent** were either "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied," and only 4 percent were "not satisfied" with the most recent PSC-CUNY contract.



The Importance of Paying Union Dues

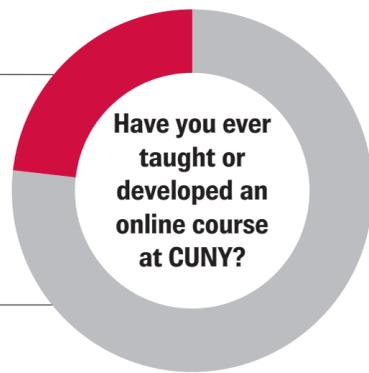
In anticipation of the US Supreme Court ruling on union dues expected in *Janus v. AFSCME*, all respondents were asked about the importance of continuing to pay their fair share. More than 90 percent said it was "very important" or "somewhat important."



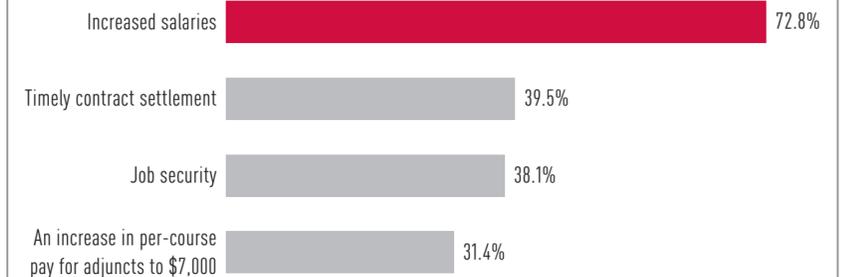
Faculty Teaching Online Courses

23.2% of full-time and adjunct faculty respondents said they had taught or developed an online course.

Of the remaining **76.8%** respondents, **72.1%** said they had not, and **4.7%** said the question was not applicable to them.



PSC Member Priorities



More than 30 percent of all respondents to the survey's questions on contract priorities included the issues in this graph among their top three priorities.

From a list of 17 issues, survey respondents identified the level of an issue's importance to them on a four-point scale: "very important"; "somewhat important"; "not very important" or "not important." Then from those issues identified as "very important" or "somewhat important," respondents selected their top three priorities.

FACULTY AND STAFF IDENTIFY THEIR PRIORITIES

