

PSC/CUNY Delegate Assembly

Minutes: December 12, 2013

Present:

Delegates:

BATSON	EC	WILLS	B	DURAND	LGCC
BOWEN	EC	BARNETT	C	EGGER-SIDER	LGCC
BUCHSBAUM	EC	FEIGENBERG	C	LYNCH	LGCC
CERMELE	EC	JEU	CLT	WALTERS	LGCC
DELUTRO	EC	MCINTYRE	CLT	PHILIPP	L
DESOLA	EC	RICHARDSON	CLT	ALBANY	NYCT
DIRAIMO	EC	SHERMAN	CLT	LANSIQUOT	NYCT
FABRICANT	EC	BINK	HEO	MACDONALD	NYCT
FRIEDHEIM	EC	BRENNAN	HEO	EISENSTEIN	Q
FRIEDMAN	EC	CRUZ-EUSEBIO	HEO	ENGLISH	Q
HATCHETT	EC	DONEY	HEO	SANUDO	Q
LONDON	EC	GALLAGHER	HEO	ZEVIN	Q
MORAN	EC	IRONS	HEO	BARBANEL	QCC
NEWFIELD	EC	LEVINE	HEO	BORRACHERO	QCC
PANAYOTAKIS	EC	MCINTYRE	HEO	CUTRONE	QCC
PERSINGER	EC	NELSON	HEO	LAU	QCC
PIMENTEL	EC	WINTER	HEO	SINCLAIR	QCC
SPEAR	EC	WU	HEO	ZINGER	QCC
VASQUEZ	EC	BERNARDINI	HCC	BALMUTH	RET
VAZQUEZ	EC	STEINBERG	HCC	DISALVO	RET
WASHINGTON	EC	GOLD	H	GREENBAUM	RET
WINE	BAR	BORNSTEIN	JJ	HYLAND	RET
CROCCO	BMCC	CLARKE	JJ	KOTELCHUCK	RET
FREAS	BMCC	MAJUMDAR	JJ	LEBERSTEIN	RET
GRONOWICZ	BMCC	MAMELI	JJ	MCCALL	RET
KURTZ	BMCC	MARKOWITZ	JJ	PERLSTEIN	RET
MELTZER	BMCC	MULDER	JJ	VILLAFANE	RET
MOORMAN	BMCC	NARKUNAS	JJ	WURMAN	RET
NAVARATNE	BMCC	PITTMAN	JJ	ACEVES	Y
OFFENHOLLEY	BMCC	CALLY	KCC	CLINE	Y
DICK	BXCC	DILL	KCC	FRANK	Y
MUNOZ	BXOC	YARMISH	KCC	SHEIDLOWER	Y
GRASSMAN	B	COOGAN	LGCC		

Staff:

Alladin, F.	Brill, D.	Graf, B.	Lasher, R.	Rosato, D.
Bell, D.	Cheng, I.	Herst, J.	Magalhaes, A.	Vandenburgh, J.
Bergen, D.	Gabriel, B.	Hogness, P.	Pfordresher, K.	Zauderer, N.
Black, A.	Gergely, J.	Hughes, S.	Rasiotis, S.	Zwiebach, P.

Guests:

Luke Elliott (GC); George Hill (Ret); Sean Kennedy (GC); John Lawrence (CSI)

- I. Approvals
  - A. Agenda
    - Motion to accept the agenda was approved.** (Motion: M. Philipp; second: C. Mulder)
  - B. Minutes
    - Motion to accept the minutes was approved.** (Motion: H. Meltzer; second: S. Sheidlower)
  
- II. President’s Report and Discussion – B. Bowen
  - Proposed NYSUT resolutions
    - Motion to accept the resolutions as a package was approved.** (Motion: M. Philipp; second: C. McCall) (See Attachment B.)
  - Pres. Bowen thanked PSC staff for putting together tonight’s reception for PSC-endorsed candidates and for their work on PSC’s political and legislative agenda. She also thanked Steve London for his leadership on this agenda.
  - NYU Teaching Assistants won their representation election by 620 to 10. PSC organizing staff served as observers at the polls.
  - President Bowen thanked Marcia Newfield for representing PSC at the New Day New York rally and for her rousing 28-second speech on adjunct working conditions.
  - Interested parties are working to draft a unified statement on the Brooklyn College Center for Worker Education for the next DA.
  - PSC is pressing the Chancellor to urge college HR departments to prioritize delivering correct benefit information to members and to end the shameful lack of consistency in paying adjuncts on time.
  - PSC’s bargaining team has been meeting in sub-committees to prepare for contract negotiations on adjunct job security and the use of educational technology. The union is prepared to enter into economic bargaining as soon as it becomes possible under a new City administration.
  - The de Blasio administration has invited the PSC to develop a proposal for greater City investment in CUNY.
  - Action Item: Proposed Resolution Concerning Repressive Actions at CCNY
    - Motion to accept the resolution in support of freedom of dissent and assembly at City College was made.** (Motion: A. Feigenberg; Second: J. Gallagher)
    - Motion to amend the resolution to remove references to City College from lines 50, 55 and 62 and/or replace them with “CUNY” was approved.**
    - Motion to accept the amended resolution was approved.** (See Attachment A.)
  
- III. Administrative Action Items
  - A. Treasurer’s Report – M. Fabricant
    - Monthly Financial Report – October
      - Summary of Financial Report for the month:
      - Income: \$1,489,000      Expenses: \$1,756,000      Deficit: (\$267,000)

Summary for the year-to-date (2 months)

Income: \$2,917,000      Expenses: \$3,138,000      Deficit (\$221,000)

The actual two-month deficit of \$221,000 exceeded the projected deficit because October was a 3-payroll month, resulting in larger-than-projected per capita payments to AFT and NYSUT.

**Motion to accept the October financial report was approved.** (Motion: H. Meltzer; second: S. Sheidlower)

B. Executive Director's Report – D. Bell

- The Elections Committee has not yet met to certify the results of the Brooklyn EOC election.
- Personnel changes - John Tarleton, the Associate Editor of *Clarion*, will return to *The Independent* in February. Adrienne de Ross, PSC's receptionist, is retiring in April.

IV. Reports and Action Items

- Proposed NYSUT resolutions

**Motion passed under President's Report (above).**

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

- Membership Appeal – John Jay College

**Motion was approved for the DA to affirm the value of Bonnie Nelson's contributions to the PSC and to make a commitment to develop an amendment to the PSC constitution (in consultation with the Library Faculty Committee) to address the election eligibility of long-time union activists who fill a position in an excluded title and then return to a represented title.** (Motion: B. Bowen; second: A. Vásquez) The chair will commence the process as soon as possible and report back to the DA on its progress at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VII. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM was approved.** (Motion: H. Meltzer)

## Attachment A.

That the Professional Staff Congress/CUNY supports the petition by faculty of the City College of New York, which includes the following statements, among others:

We note with alarm the events surrounding the seizure by security forces of the student center located in NAC 3/201. Such an intrusion by force is unprecedented within our experience, stretching back over the past half-century, and including times of severe political stress.

The support of this action by academic officials is even more alarming, as it suggests that maintaining a suitable academic atmosphere must give way to maintaining a sort of order, enforced by the security forces of the university and the city. Such order is inimical to the needs of open discussion and of reasoned argument that an academic institution requires.

The suggestion that a vastly expanded Career Center is needed can be discussed; perhaps such a need exists. The suggestion that the only conceivable location for a Career Center is the location of the most prominent center of dissident thought on campus, and that this space had to be seized in violent fashion in a nighttime raid, is bizarre. The excuse that has been offered by the college administration is not credible.

An academic institution is defined by its openness to many directions of thought, not all of which sit comfortably with those in power. This raid suggests that there are severe bounds to what types of thought are acceptable at this university.

The policy on expression of dissent being contemplated for adoption by the Board of Trustees carries further the limits on the expression of thought at this university. Thought is meaningless if it cannot be made public, which may require more than writing something on a piece of paper and filing it; the rules that are proposed would even limit the distribution of leaflets, suggesting that arguments in support of unapproved points of view are to be forbidden in the university.

For this reason, we protest the raid on the student center at City College, and the proposed rules for limiting the distribution of thoughts that have not been approved by the administration of the university. We are being asked to teach our students that independence is unacceptable, and conformity is the essence of what it means to be an educated person. In our considered opinion, based on long experience with education at a university, this is contrary to what is meant by a university education.

**The introduction of security forces into academic discourse, plus the limitation of the right to speak, and to disagree, are the means of destruction of a university.**

**Be it further resolved that the Professional Staff Congress:**

**Condemns the CUNY administration for their nighttime raid of the Morales/Shakur Center, NAC 3/201.**

**Condemns the confiscation of personal property during the raid;**

**Condemns the CUNY Administration's punitive, anti-intellectual overreaction to protests on campus following the seizure of NAC 3/201;**

**Condemns the temporary closing of the NAC Building on [date], an action that prevented students in certain classes from attending class, blocked access to the library, and confined faculty and staff within the building;**

**Condemns the CUNY Administration for closing all but one entrance to the NAC Building in the weeks following the seizure of NAC 3/201, an action that unnecessarily disrupted access to academic activities at the college;**

**Calls on the CCNY and CUNY Administrations to refrain from using excessive force or punishment for student, faculty or staff dissent;**

**Calls for all criminal charges against Khalil Vasquez and Tafador Sourov to be dropped, as the disciplinary charges against them have been addressed appropriately, through the College disciplinary process.**

## **Attachment B.**

1. **IRS 125 Benefits (Council of Retirees)**  
Resolved, that NYSUT work with its national affiliates to lobby for legislation that would allow retirees to utilize up to \$4,000 pre-tax dollars for qualified health services and products on an annual basis.
2. **Increasing Employer Penalties (Council of Retirees)**  
Resolved, that NYSUT and its state and national affiliates seek to increase health insurance coverage for employees by narrowing the gap between employer penalties and the cost of providing health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.
3. **In Support of New York's Fast Food Workers – Previously passed**  
Therefore, be it resolved that, NYSUT supports the organizing campaign of New York's fast food workers for a \$15 per hour wage and the right to unionize without corporate interference and  
Be it further resolved that, in furtherance of the above resolution, that NYSUT promote the Fast Food Forward coalition through an education campaign with affiliates and organizational partners.
4. **Teacher Educators' Professional Autonomy and Academic Freedom Must be Safeguarded (EdTPA) – Previously passed**  
We, the Professional Staff Congress of the City University of New York (PSC/CUNY), therefore reject the notion that CAEP in its current form and edTPA constitute appropriate assessments of teacher education programs and teacher candidate performance, and we believe that their rushed implementation will undermine preparation of teacher candidates in New York State.
5. **Support for the Coalition to Reform TAP (new)**  
Resolved, that NYSUT should seek to enact legislation that updates TAP to give excluded students access to financial aid, to align the program with the current needs of students, including those who attend part-time, to simplify the program's rules and regulations, and to set up processes that continue to make TAP function better; and Resolved, that NYSUT shall advocate for the platform of TAP reforms adopted by the Coalition to Reform the NY Tuition Assistance Program.
6. **Resolution to Support Appeal of Legal Decision on Pensions in Detroit (new)**

**Be it resolved, that New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) join with the other state affiliates of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) to support the appeal of the Rhodes' decision underway by Detroit's unions and**

**Be it further resolved, that NYSUT engage with New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to maintain the solvency of the New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS) and that Annual Required Contributions (ARC) of all municipalities are made each year.**