

January 26, 2015

The Board of Trustees  
The City University of New York  
205 East 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Chairperson Schmidt and Trustees of The City University of New York:

President Obama cites CUNY's Accelerated Study in Associate Programs as a model in his community college proposal. The New York Times devotes a moving series of articles to the challenges facing students, faculty and staff at La Guardia Community College. A record number of Fulbright Fellowships are awarded to CUNY faculty and students.

The CUNY Administration claims public credit for these successes, but the truth is that none of these stories would exist without the work of the faculty and staff represented by the Professional Staff Congress. There would be no ASAP, no CUNYStart, no student/faculty partnerships, no breakthrough scientific research, no prize-winning novels, no one-stop student services, no seven-days-a-week classes, no Black Male Initiative, no libraries, no labs, no teaching, no research and no community service without the 27,000 members of the Professional Staff Congress/CUNY.

Yet the Board of Trustees has failed for more than five years to authorize a successor collective bargaining agreement or direct its representatives to make an economic offer to the union. The faculty and professional staff of the university with which you are entrusted have not received a contractual raise since October 2009. During the more than five years since our last raise, costs in New York City have soared, CUNY enrollment has grown, salaries at competing institutions have kept pace with inflation, and CUNY faculty and staff have been required to take on bigger workloads as initiatives by college presidents and CUNY administration proliferate. We doubt that any of you would work at your positions for five years without a raise, and you clearly did not expect a chancellor to work at the pay rate of 2009. Why, then, should we?

It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to make an economic offer and negotiate a successor agreement. While the faculty and staff understand the complex funding sources for CUNY, we remind you that ultimate responsibility for making an economic offer rests with the Board. A contract—and a good contract—must be settled without delay. The work of the entire University is at stake.

The members of the PSC hold you responsible for authorizing an economic offer to the union without delay. We are prepared to escalate our campaign this spring in every way necessary until a fair, progressive contract settlement is reached. A delay of more than five years by trustees who claim to have the best interests of the University at heart is unconscionable.

Sincerely,



Barbara Bowen, President

cc: Membership of the Professional Staff Congress/CUNY