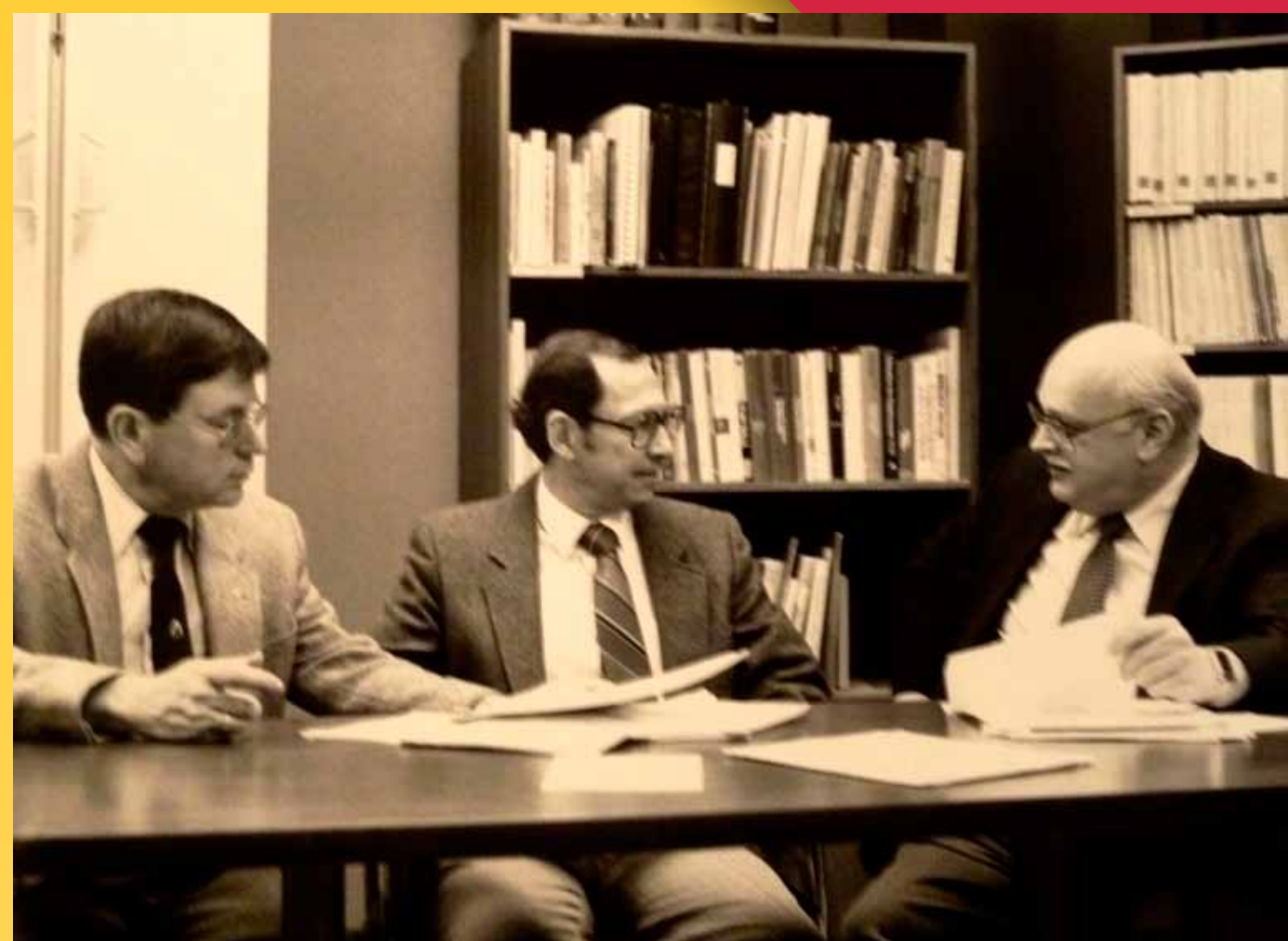


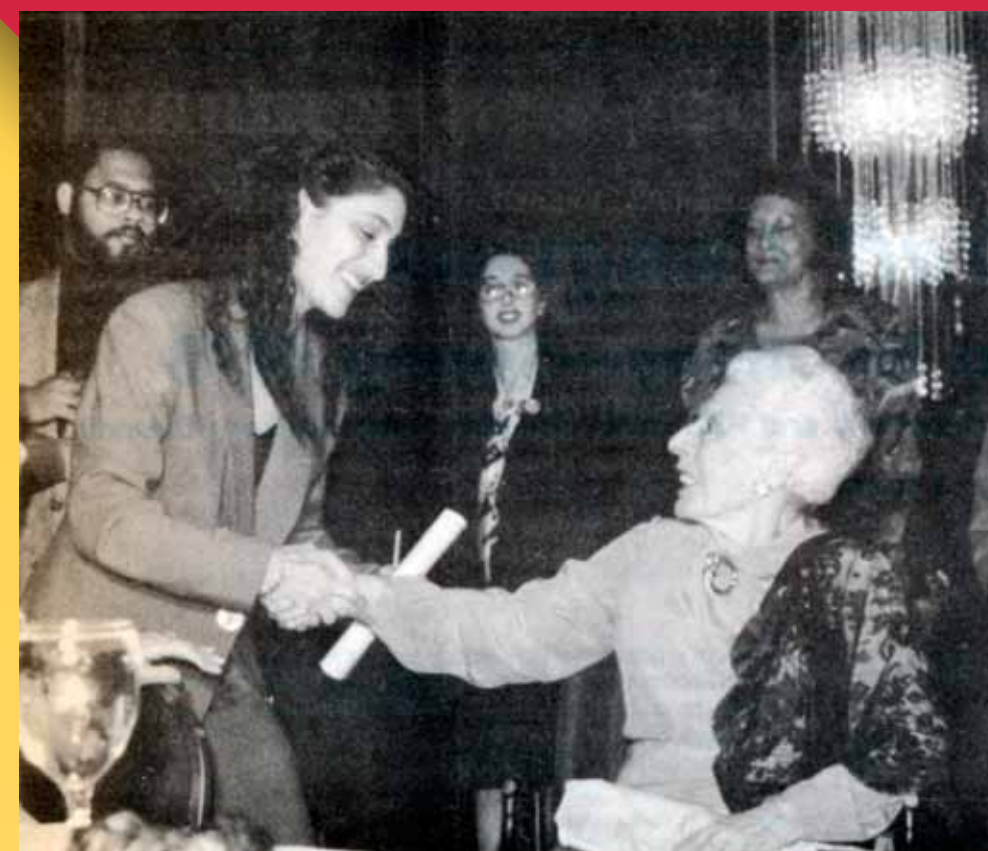
PSC Retrospective 1990s

THE WELFARE FUND



An undated photo of Welfare Fund officers David Allen, Irwin Yellowwitz and Sam Ehrenpreis, all of whom helped shape the direction of the fund during this period.

THE BELLE ZELLER AWARDS



Belle Zeller, President Emerita, presenting a scholarship award to Baruch student Anthoula Katsimates in December, 1992.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE ORGANIZING

Community colleges urge unified voice

by Trudy Whitman

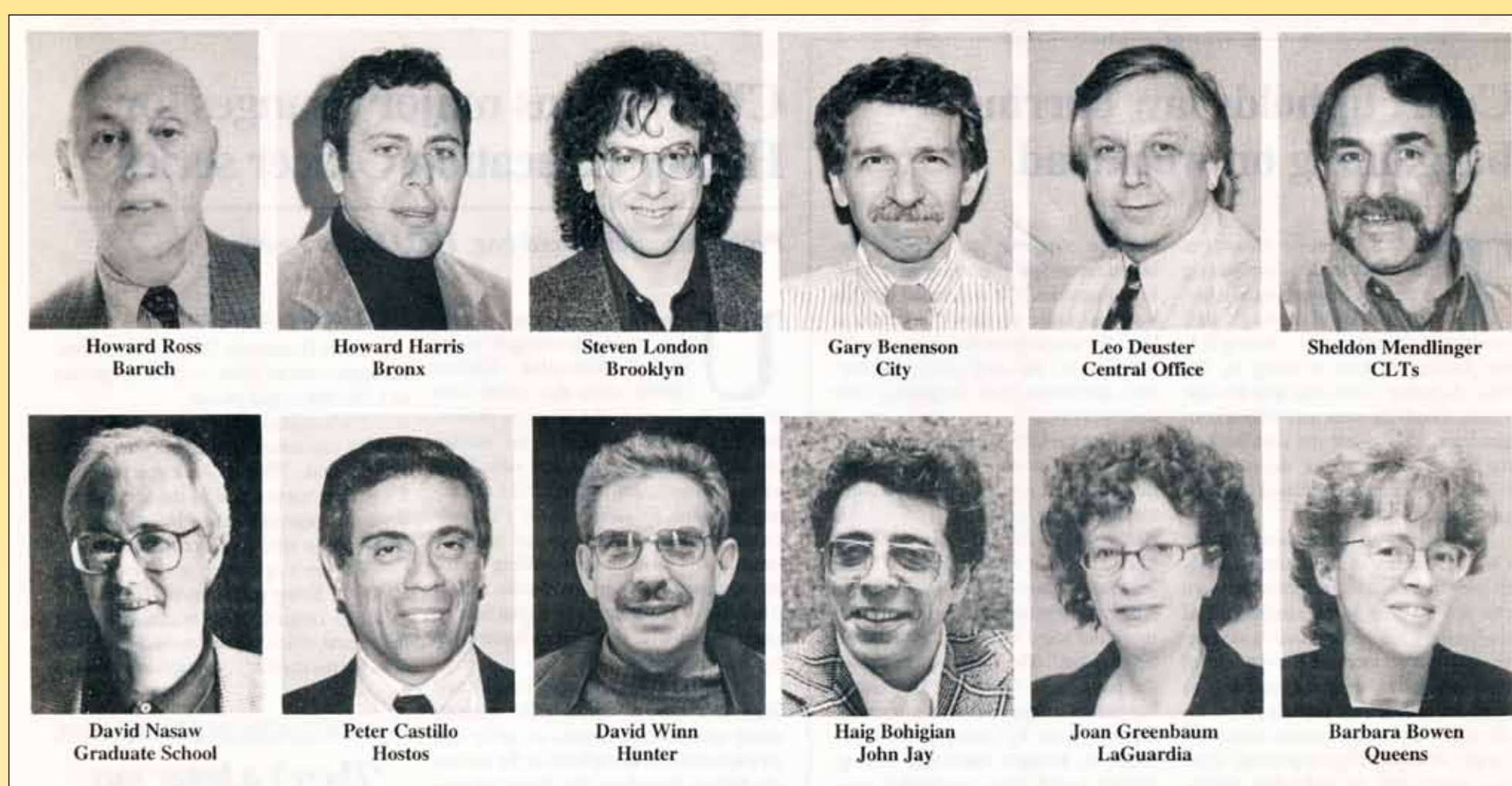
From a lecture draped with a blue and gold "Save CUNY" banner, a series of addresses, ranging from scholarly to passionate, were made on March 21 at Borough of Manhattan Community College to an audience of over 200 attending the first CUNY-wide community college conference. "The Power of Community Colleges: Organizing for Change" was an outgrowth of a forum held at LaGuardia Community College in 1996. The conference was organized in response to draconian budget slashing and continued political assaults on the university, but in its planning stages, no one realized just how timely the program would be. In the weeks leading up to the conference, Governor George Pataki, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and others leveled fierce attacks on CUNY's community colleges.



Panel discussion at first CUNY-wide conference on community college concerns featured Prof. Anne Friedman (Borough of Manhattan CC), David Lavin (CUNY Graduate School), Kevin Dougherty (Manhattan College) and Lorraine Cohen (LaGuardia CC). Prof. Lavin and Dougherty were keynote speakers.

Anne Friedman (left) and Lorraine Cohen (right) are the key organizers of a community college conference in April, 1997.

ELECTED CHAPTER CHAIRS - 1999



Chapter chairs elected for three-year terms in April, 1999.

POLISHOOK ET AL: THE LAWSUIT

PSC, Senate sue to nullify retrenchment
AAUP asked to investigate violation of faculty rights; censure possible

The Professional Staff Congress and the University Faculty Senate last month filed suit in State Supreme Court seeking to nullify the retrenchment resolutions adopted by the City University Board of Trustees June 26 and to halt implementation of the resolutions. The board asserted that the suit was filed to implement a sweeping restructuring of the university's academic programs without regard to required governance procedures and to justify widespread layoffs of tenured instructional staff at the senior colleges. A hearing is scheduled for Sept. 13.

"We have a responsibility to defend faculty interests," said PSC President Irwin H. Polishook, noting that the board acted without faculty input into the program of reductions and retrenchments. "The board's own bylaws require senate participation in academic decision making. The fact

• abolishes, merges or consolidates departments;

• restricts access to the senior colleges to students deemed able to complete remedial work within two semesters;

• raises tuition by \$750 at the senior colleges and \$400 at the community colleges;

• reduces the number of credits required for the baccalaureate to 120 and for the associate degree to 60, among other provisions.

When they passed the resolutions authorizing these profound academic policy changes, CUNY trustees failed to follow the university's own bylaws, college governance plans and other requirements for faculty participation in academic decision making, the petition states. In the process, they deprived faculty of their rights.

In a letter delivered to the Board before its June 26 meeting, PSC President Polishook and Senate Chair David Cooper warned that "adopting the resolutions would violate the

City University Chancellor W. Ann Buzovsky's attempt to use an alleged final order to authorize her scheme to renege the university received a sharp rebuff last month.

In a sweeping victory for the Professional Staff Congress and the University Faculty Senate, a State Supreme Court judge ruled the CUNY board of trustees violated its own policies when it adopted its June 26, 1995 retrenchment resolutions laying off faculty and restructuring academic programs. Judge Alice Schlesinger vacated the resolutions writing the board failed to take into account CUNY's approved final solution before proceeding with its drastic measures. Her April 20 decision orders the trustees to stop the academic restructuring and to complete any necessary resolution within two months and to re-engage changes and make findings whether a veto still existed in June," she concluded.

As noted by the union's attorney, while filing objections and laying off faculty, CUNY management allocated \$5 million for new programs, such as its language immersion center, and to hire new instructional staff. This, at the very least, poses a question...the retention and exit level of the financial crisis and whether it was necessary to discontinue, i.e. lay off senior staff and faculty as the means of meeting that crisis," Judge Schlesinger said.

The judge turned thumbs down on CUNY's claim that those resolutions were necessary to meet the university's needs, academic stability and would have reduced degree requirements, limited access to the senior colleges to students deemed able to complete any necessary resolution within two months and re-engage

Attorney Judith Vladeck met with PSC President Irwin H. Polishook and UFS Chairperson David Cooper as they prepared for their lawsuit against CUNY. The PSC and UFS support the PSC's

In 1996, a state Supreme Court judge vacated the BOT's 1995 retrenchment resolutions. On appeal, the decision was reversed. But CUNY and the PSC entered a settlement agreement, part of which is a basis for the 2012 Pathways lawsuit by the PSC.

POLISHOOK ET AL: THE AFTERMATH

Court throws out Retrenchment Resolutions
Polishook et al' a clear-cut victory for the union

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DE-FUNDING I

CUNY facing massive budget cuts

The City University's grim budget problems are expected to grow worse before they get better. After being ordered to cut \$20 million at the senior colleges and \$16.5 million at the community colleges this fall, the university now faces additional massive reductions as the city and state seek to eradicate huge deficits.

"We are entering a period that will be very, very difficult and will extend beyond this academic year," Professional Staff Congress President Irwin H. Polishook told the union's Delegate Assembly on Nov. 15. "The problems confronting CUNY as a result of city and state fiscal woes are severe and long-term. Whatever lies ahead, the union's top priorities will be to protect jobs and maintain the integrity of CUNY's academic programs."

Cuomo proposes layoffs
To close a budget deficit estimated at

Teachers and other state employees oppose the furloughs and layoffs and will urge the lawmakers to seek

BULLETIN:
At press time, City University trustees authorized a tuition increase of \$100 a semester, beginning in February. Their action, which is subject to approval by Governor Cuomo and the Legislature, would raise the cost of attending CUNY to \$1,450 a year from \$1,250.

The trustees set two conditions to be met by the state and the city before the increase would take effect. One would remove some of the restrictions on financial aid to part-time students. The other would allow the university to keep all revenue generated by

The de-funding of public higher education in New York state accelerated under Governors Mario Cuomo and George Pataki.

DE-FUNDING II

Enrollment up as staff numbers shrink

With data showing enrollment continuing to climb as the number of instructional staff members decreases, leaders of the Professional Staff Congress are voicing concern for the future of educational quality at The City University and the impact the combination is having on already sagging faculty morale.

Enrollment reaches 16-yr high
Enrollment at CUNY reached 203,000 students this fall, the highest number since 1976, according to figures released last month by the university.

"Under other circumstances, we would applaud rising enrollment figures as an indication that more students are gaining access to higher education at CUNY," said PSC President Irwin H. Polishook. "But access is only half of our mission. Excellence, the other half, is increasingly being jeopardized, despite the heroic efforts, 15 percent. University-wide, full-time undergraduate enrollment rose by 4.5 percent to 107,354, while part-time enrollment dropped by 1.8 percent to 70,235.

The figures released by the university are based on preliminary data reported as of mid-September but are not expected to change significantly when final tallies are in.

CUNY estimates a backlog of 10,000 would-be entrants were unable to enroll this fall because of budget cuts. The university's 1992 Master Plan projects enrollment to reach 226,000 by 1996 and 246,000 by the year 2001. The estimate is based, in part, on government statistics showing that by operating budget has compounded the damage inflicted by years of shortfall funding: classes exceeding educational sound sizes, sections eliminated, library hours and acquisitions curtailed, student services eroded and instructional equipment deteriorating or outdated, among other problems. Recent reports from the campuses indicate that these conditions, coupled with the budget-driven decline in their number, have seriously undermined instructional staff morale.

PSC chapter surveys
Approximately 58 percent of 118 individuals responding to a survey conducted last spring by the HUSTOS Com-

In the nineties, enrollment increased and staff lines decreased as CUNY per capita funding diminished under Cuomo and Pataki.

DE-FUNDING: THE FIGHTBACK



The PSC joined forces with the UFS and progressive legislators to fight the budget cuts.

POLISHOOK RETIRES, BORIS BECOMES PRESIDENT

Irwin Polishook steps down

Irwin H. Polishook stepped down from the presidency of the Professional Staff Congress on Feb. 3 and retired from the university.

Richard Boris, who has been first vice president of the union since 1995, succeeds him. He will serve the remainder of Dr. Polishook's term of office, which ends in May.

Dr. Boris is a director of New York State United Teachers, the PSC's statewide affiliate, and a delegate to the National Council of the American Association of University Professors. As first vice president, Dr. Boris has participated in contract negotiations, lobby-

ing and campus visits. He has also represented the union before legislative committees and task forces.

Dr. Boris, who teaches political science at York College, was elected to chair its PSC chapter in the spring of 1993 after serving as acting head.

A member of the instructional staff since 1973, he previously taught at Dickinson College and was visiting professor at Indiana University. He earned a B.A. from Hunter College and a Ph.D. from Indiana.

An election for all 21 union-wide posts takes place this spring.

Irwin Polishook retires after 24 years as President of the PSC.