

Resolution Title: Resolution on Academic Freedom at John Jay College/CUNY
Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

WHEREAS, President Jeremy Travis of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, acceded to groups external to the college and banned Adjunct Lecturer Susan Rosenberg from further employment at John Jay College; and

WHEREAS, NYSUT is on record in support of academic freedom, faculty governance and due process for all faculty; and

WHEREAS, the AAUP recommends that institutional integrity requires that part-time and other contingent faculty be afforded the same academic freedom and due process as tenured full-time faculty; and

WHEREAS, the 2004 AAUP report regarding the dismissal of Mohammad Yousry concluded that CUNY administration's suspension of an adjunct faculty member without procedural safeguards and in violation of its own rules concerning the reappointment of adjunct faculty is inimical to AAUP's principles of academic freedom; * and

WHEREAS, the John Jay College Thematic Studies Program chose to offer courses on prison writing as part of its curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the faculty of the John Jay College Thematic Studies Program judged Susan Rosenberg to be qualified for this assignment and assigned her to teach such courses; and

WHEREAS, the Emerald Society of the Rockland County, N.Y. Police Department, a voluntary police association external to John Jay College demanded that Susan Rosenberg be banned from teaching at John Jay College solely because of a prior conviction for which she was pardoned and unproven accusations of her involvement in the 1981 Brink's robbery in Rockland County, N.Y.; and

WHEREAS, President Travis acceded to the demands of an external group for reasons completely unrelated to the instructor's qualifications, prior performance, peer review or any threat of danger to the college community, and banned her from teaching at the college, and

WHEREAS, the Delegate Assembly of the Professional Staff Congress passed a resolution calling for President Travis to drop his pre-emptive ban on future teaching assignments for Susan Rosenberg and pledge that the College will respect the legitimate decisions of its own faculty and will maintain the John Jay College of Criminal Justice as an institution devoted to free intellectual inquiry; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT condemn the actions taken by John Jay President Travis for his abrogation of academic freedom and faculty governance; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT reaffirm the principle that the protections of due process and academic freedom must be extended to part-time faculty, who teach more than half the classes in many of New York's public colleges; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT reiterate its support for faculty autonomy in matters of curriculum and hiring, a prerogative under widespread attack at public and private universities.

“Academic Freedom and Tenure: City University of New York,” *Academe*, AAUP Bulletin (Nov-Dec 2004): Volume 90, Number 6.