

June 21, 2013

Dr. Benno Schmidt
Chairperson, Board of Trustees
The City University of New York
205 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Chairperson Schmidt:

I am writing to call on you, as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, to take the necessary actions to rescind the June 27, 2011 resolution, “Creating an Efficient Transfer System.” In a vote counted on May 31, the full-time faculty of CUNY, by a margin of 92%, voted No Confidence in the curriculum the resolution produced. Nearly four thousand full-time faculty—an absolute majority—voted No Confidence in Pathways. As president of the Professional Staff Congress, which has voted repeatedly to reject Pathways, I ask you to respect the vote of No Confidence and rescind the Pathways resolution.

A vote of No Confidence, as you know, is not merely a statement of opposition. It is a demand that the subject of the vote be removed from a position of power and replaced by an alternative. Our demand is that Pathways be removed from its position as CUNY’s general education curriculum and replaced by a curriculum or curricula formulated by elected faculty bodies. The elected faculty bodies stand ready to work expeditiously on the important issue of student transfer, and recognize the complexity of doing so when implementation of Pathways has already begun.

The No Confidence vote was conducted by secret ballot among the 7202 full-time faculty at CUNY from May 9 to May 31. The result, tabulated by the American Arbitration Association at a vote-count open to observers, was as follows: 4322 voters, or 60% of the total, cast ballots; 3996, more than 92%, agreed with a statement of No Confidence in Pathways; and only 323, or 7%, disagreed (3 ballots were void).

There is now no question as to whether Pathways has the support of the faculty: an absolute majority has voted No Confidence. A curriculum that has so dramatically failed to win the confidence of those responsible for executing it cannot be in the best interest of the University. I call on you to protect the interests of the University and the future of its students by acting on the vote and initiating a repeal of the June 2011 resolution.

This is the first time in the history of the University, as far as we can determine, that the faculty has voted No Confidence in the University’s entire general education

curriculum. It is a moment to listen to the faculty of whom the CUNY administration is justly proud and resolve the public crisis of confidence in CUNY. We call on you to do so immediately.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Bowen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Bowen
President, Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

cc: Dr. Matthew Goldstein, Chancellor, The City University of New York
Dr. William P. Kelly, President, CUNY Graduate Center
Faculty and Professional Staff, CUNY