

March 19, 2009

Resolution In Support of PSC-CUNY Research Awards

Submitted by Barbara Bowen, President;
Steve London, First Vice President;
Arthurine DeSola, Secretary;
and Mike Fabricant, Treasurer

Whereas, for 36 years, the PSC-CUNY Research Awards program has issued thousands of research awards that have greatly contributed to the research activity of CUNY's instructional staff at all levels; and

Whereas, the PSC membership has expressed overwhelming support for the PSC-CUNY Research Awards Program and its institutional processes for awarding grants; and

Whereas, the University Committee for Research Awards has made thousands of high quality peer-reviewed research grants; and

Whereas, PSC-CUNY Research Awards are a negotiated benefit; and

Whereas, Article 25.2(a) specifies "Eligibility" for PSC-CUNY Research Awards; and

Whereas, Article 25.2 (b) specifies the composition and authority of the University Committee on Research Awards (UCRA) and states in part, "The Chancellor shall appoint a faculty committee....Such committee shall be constituted as the University Committee on Research Awards, charged with the responsibility to make, in its discretion, research grants to individual instructional staff members of The City University of New York...;" and

Whereas, Article 25.2 (c) specifies that the (UCRA) "...shall be responsible for establishing guidelines for the application and approval of research awards...;" and

Whereas, Vice-Chancellor Gillian Small empanelled a Task Force to recommend changes in the PSC-CUNY Research Awards; and

Whereas, Vice-Chancellor Small circulated to the Task Force "working draft" proposals that would, if implemented, violate contractually protected faculty governance of the PSC-CUNY Research Award program and possibly other contractually protected rights; and

Whereas, the UFS Research Committee and the University Committee on Research Awards have issued a March 12, 2009 "Joint Resolution": 1) affirming the contractual basis of the PSC-CUNY Research Grants, 2) rejecting the

restructuring proposals embodied in the “working draft” report, and 3) demanding that the Task Force be disbanded and that suggested changes in the PSC-CUNY Research Awards be submitted to the University Committee on Research Awards; and

Whereas, the Task Force has not yet issued any recommendations, and CUNY management has not made any demands to change contractual language; therefore be it

Resolved, the PSC rejects the recommendations circulated in the “working draft” proposals; and be it further

Resolved, the PSC rejects this and any and all attempts to unilaterally change the contract; and be it further

Resolved, the PSC demands CUNY management to submit any recommended changes to the PSC-CUNY Research Awards to the University Committee on Research Awards for its consideration; and be it further

Resolved, the PSC will enforce the contractual rights of the University Committee on Research Awards; and be it further

Resolved, the PSC will enforce the contractually defined rights of the membership to PSC-CUNY Research Awards; and be it further

Resolved, the PSC stands for strengthening the PSC-CUNY Research Awards through an infusion of more funds.