

December 15, 2005

Resolution in Support of NYU Strikers

Whereas graduate teaching assistants at NYU voted overwhelmingly to be represented by UAW Local 2110, were recognized by the University, and successfully negotiated a first contract in 2002; and

Whereas Following the NLRB's ruling in the Brown University case that graduate assistants are essentially students and not employees, NYU President John Sexton unilaterally and arbitrarily withdrew recognition and refused to bargain a second contract upon expiration of the first contract in August 2005; and

Whereas NYU graduate assistants have been on strike for five weeks seeking a renewal of recognition and the right to collective bargaining; and

Whereas in retaliation and in contravention of established labor law, President Sexton has threatened to withdraw stipends of all those remaining on strike; and

Whereas this strike represents the cutting edge of labor solidarity in the face of academic corporatization; and

Whereas a large number of NYU faculty and faculty from a wide variety of other academic institutions and associations have expressed support of graduate employees' right to union representation; and

Whereas the PSC has a long-standing history of commitment to the principles of the right to organize, the right to collective bargaining and the right of graduate employees to union representation; and

Whereas the PSC has committed itself to this struggle and continues to actively and publicly support graduate student workers at NYU and elsewhere; therefore be it

Resolved, that the PSC urge its members, both full and part-time classroom instructors and non-teaching personnel, to pledge to refuse any new or additional employment at NYU for the duration of the strike; and be it further

Resolved, that the PSC circulate this resolution for individuals to sign; and be it further

Resolved, that signed pledges be forwarded to the appropriate departments at NYU; and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be forwarded to NYSUT and the AFT to be circulated to other higher education locals for similar action.

Passed by the Delegate Assembly of the Professional Staff Congress, Dec. 15, 2005