

Resolution in Support of Striking Faculty at the University of Illinois-Chicago

Whereas, on February 18m 2014 the faculty at the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) represented by UICUF Local 6456 went on a two-day strike to take back decision-making power over curriculum and demand a far contract that would improve working conditions; and

Whereas, academic freedom, faculty governance and fair pay are inextricably bound to faculty's ability to provide students with a quality education; and

Whereas, union officials and UIC administrators have failed to reach an agreement on several pay issues, even after more than 60 bargaining sessions over 18 months; and

Whereas, the union's unmet demands about pay include demands for a multi-year contract, a 3.5% salary increase, and an increase in the minimum salary for non-tenured faculty from \$30,000 to \$45,000; and

Whereas, the ranks of tenured faculty at UIC have decreased in the last five years while numbers for students enrollment and administration have gone up 13 and 10 percent respectively; and

Whereas, the median salary for tenure-track faculty at UIC is \$65,000; and

Whereas, UIC is experiencing similar austerity budgets to CUNY in which increases in student tuition offset state disinvestment; and

Whereas, UIC faculty are committed to providing the best education possible to their students, who often come from immigrant families, who are likely to live at home, hold full- or part-time jobs and have children of their own; and

Whereas, the two-day strike is an effort to reach a contract that allows faculty the working conditions necessary to fulfill their mission of providing quality, affordable higher education to students who would otherwise not be able to afford it; there be it

RESOLVED, the PSC salutes the courage of the UIC faculty – full-time and part-time together, and will continue to support their ongoing fight.