

April 25, 2002

**Resolution ON JOINING THE CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK
FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE AMERICAS**

Whereas CUNY, like other public institutions of higher education throughout the United States, Canada, and the Western Hemisphere, has suffered severe cutbacks; and

Whereas these cutbacks stem from the economic policies of austerity, privatization, and deregulation; and

Whereas the process of creating a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) before it, threatens a radical expansion of investment and trade in private, commercialized education services, at the expense of public education in the hemisphere; and

Whereas teachers' unions and other educators' organizations have conducted research, proposed alternatives, and taken common action to alleviate the harmful results of such policies; and

Whereas the Civil Society Network for Public Education in the Americas/CSNPEA (Red Social para la Educacion Publica en las Americas/Red SEPA) conducts such research, develops communication networks and publication, holds conferences on the impact of these neoliberal policies on education throughout the Americas, proposes alternative approaches consistent with strong and democratic public education systems, and helps to mobilize educators, students and others in support of democratic and public education; and

Whereas the CSNPEA/Red SEPA plans an October 2002 Continental Campaign to defend public education in the Western Hemisphere;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PSC-CUNY becomes a member of the Civil Society Network for Public Education in the Americas and participate in the Continental Campaign.

Resolution drafted by members of the International Committee: Electa Arenal, Renate Bridenthal (convenor), Jack Hammond, John Mineka, Tony O'Brien and Peter Ranis.

Passed by the EC April 4, 2002

Passed by Delegate Assembly April 25, 2002