PSC RESOLUTION IN PROTEST OF VIOLENT POLICE RESPONSE TO PEACEFUL PROTEST BY CUNY STUDENTS

On September 17, 2013, the New York Police Department arrested six people, including four CUNY students, in an unprovoked police attack against a peaceful protest by students and faculty against CUNY's appointment of former CIA chief ex-General David Petraeus. CUNY students were punched, slammed against vehicles and against the pavement by NYPD officers. Documentary video evidence shows a plainclothes police officer gratuitously kidney-punching a protester who was already held down by other police officers and immobilized. The demonstration was called by the Ad Hoc Committee Against the Militarization of CUNY.

As the union representing faculty and professional staff at CUNY—and as people who have dedicated our professional lives to the well-being of CUNY students—the Professional Staff Congress/CUNY expresses outrage at the violent and unprovoked actions by the NYPD against students peacefully protesting the appointment of David Petraeus as a Visiting Professor at the Macaulay Honors College of CUNY. We deplore the use of violence and brutal tactics against CUNY students and faculty who were peacefully protesting outside the college. And we call for a formal investigation of the use of force against the protestors.

We affirm the right of students, faculty and staff to engage in peaceful protest against actions of the City University of New York. We call on the City of New York to drop all charges against the students. Further, we call on the CUNY Administration and Board of Trustees to join us in condemning the use of police violence against CUNY students engaged in peaceful protest and to take all necessary steps to ensure that students engaged in peaceful protest will not be met with police violence.

Approved unanimously by the PSC Delegate Assembly, September 19, 2013.