Resolution to Not Renew the CIA ‘Signature School’ Program at Baruch College

W1. Whereas, the administration of Baruch College has signed a “Memorandum of Understanding Between the Central Intelligence Agency and the Baruch College”¹ establishing a Signature Schools Program that allows the CIA to:

- “Develop a sustainable relationship with key university staff and personnel on campus to brand CIA as an employer of choice.”
- “Conduct on-campus interviews; information sessions; workshops; simulations; and networking activities with student organizations; student honor societies, and campus chapters of diversity professional organizations such as, but not limited to, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, American Indian Science and Engineering Society and/or the Association of Latino Professionals for America.”
- “Implement a campus advertising campaign to communicate our diversity and inclusion brand.”
- “Conduct frequent, constructive communications with the Baruch College regarding Return on Investment (ROI) for CIA of increased applicants and hires and ROI for Baruch College of increased career placement for graduates.”

, and

W2. Whereas, the Baruch administration signed the MOU “without consultation or notice to the faculty, and failed to reveal the MOU until a CIA press release was discovered by Baruch faculty,”² and

W3 Whereas, “the terms of the MOU have explicit implications for matters of educational policy and academic freedom,”³ and

W4 Whereas, the Baruch College Administration has ignored the reasonable request that it provide the Faculty Senate with an interim report on activities that have been conducted under the Baruch-CIA agreement as well as a request to have the Faculty Senate be involved in an assessment and review of the CIA Signature Program at Baruch, and

W5 Whereas, the administration has also ignored a May 2018 vote of 20-2-1 by Baruch Faculty Senate to sever the College’s relationship with the CIA through non-signature of the 2018-2019 MOU renewal, and

1 “Memorandum of Understanding Between the Central Intelligence Agency and the Baruch College,” http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/documents/Baruch-CIAMOU.pdf
2 Baruch Faculty Senate resolution passed by secret ballot.
3 Ibid
Whereas, the Agency has a well-documented record of violently overthrowing democratically elected leaders pursuing social reform including a coup d’État overthrow of Iran’s elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossaddegh, who had nationalized the British-owned Anglo-Persian oil company and used its revenues to fund new social programs (social security, unemployment insurance, etc.); the ouster of Jacobo Arbenz (elected in 1951) in Guatemala, whose program of land reform and labor rights upset the U.S. United Fruit Company; and the launching of a military coup d’État in Chile in 1973 to overthrow Salvador Allende who nationalized the Chilean copper industry, which was opposed by the Kennecott Copper Co. and other U.S. multinationals, and

Whereas, the CIA overthrow of elected governments resulted in repressive, dictatorial regimes that committed widespread human rights violations while implementing pro-business and anti-labor policies in areas such as Iran (Mossaddegh was replaced by the Shah, whose U.S.-trained secret police was notorious for brutal interrogations and murders of dissidents) and Chile (Allende was replaced by General Augusto Pinochet, whose dictatorship lasted until 1990 and whose military murdered thousands of opponents and banned unions and opposition parties), and

Whereas, the CIA has a record of violence at odds with the values of CUNY faculty, staff and students including the implementation of Operation Phoenix in Vietnam, a program responsible for the torturing or murder of tens of thousands of suspected rebels; the use of “extraordinary rendition” (extrajudicial kidnapping) and extreme torture (including waterboarding and prolonged sleep deprivation); and drone strikes against civilians in Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Libya, and Somalia, and

Whereas, the CIA’s attempts to infiltrate and exert influence over researchers in globally oriented fields within the social sciences (most notably Anthropology, but also Political Science, Geography, Sociology and others) are well-documented, and

Whereas, the CIA’s undercover activities in other countries have created a situation in which American researchers (faculty or graduate students) face intense scrutiny and suspicion if they’re perceived to be associated with the CIA, and therefore the CIA Signature Program at Baruch has the potential to put lives at risk, and

Whereas, employment by the CIA could potential cause emotional or bodily harm to the CUNY students who choose to work for this organization, be it

Resolved, that the PSC calls on the administration of Baruch College to provide the Faculty Senate with details about the myriad opportunities that the Signature School Program is offering the CIA, and be it further

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R2 Resolved, that during the period in which the CIA Signature School has a public presence and recruitment facilities at Baruch College, the PSC calls on the College administration to invite organizations that offer an alternative position on the CIA and the risks of CIA employment to have a similarly public presence, and be it further

R3 Resolved, the PSC calls on Baruch College to not renew the CIA Signature School Program when the one-year agreement expires at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.