I am asking that CUNY not only not make budget cuts but that we demand a reallocation of the City’s budget toward funding CUNY, especially as Black Lives Matters spearheads the demand to defund the police and support the initiatives that truly build a safe and self-sustaining community. We have long averred that CUNY is the engine of mobility for New Yorkers. This is our chance to demand that the City gives our students the respect that that reality requires. If we are to come out of this pandemic and its economic trauma, CUNY must be strong for our students, our staff, and for faculty. We must have funds to provide support in and outside the classroom. We must have funds to provide technologically flexible and humane online and hybrid courses. We must have funds to provide tele-health for mental health counseling. We must have funds to assist those dealing with food insecurity. We must have funds to reduce class sizes and expand access. We must have funds to mobilize our considerable contingent faculty. We must show that education is not an afterthought, not a product, not a game. It is the only way that marginalized and oppressed New Yorkers will have a fair chance, and through their ascension, our city will stand firm. CUNY is not a fast-food restaurant where we provide a $1 menu. It is a pillar for our democracy. And that democracy needs defending.