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October 21, 2024

Board of Trustees Chairperson William C. Thompson Jr.
Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez
City University of New York
205 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Chairperson Thompson and Chancellor Rodríguez:

As city and state elected officials who are, or have been, adjunct faculty at the City University of New York (CUNY), we urge you to settle a fair contract with the Professional Staff Congress (PSC/CUNY). Educating New York's next generation of leaders is an honor and a responsibility we take seriously. But CUNY cannot fulfill its mission to be a university for the people without a collective bargaining agreement that is supportive of good working, teaching and learning conditions.

Our colleagues and constituents, represented by PSC/CUNY, have been working with an expired contract for more than 19 months. Their bargaining team has met with CUNY negotiators more than thirty times. Recruiting and retaining qualified and exceptional professors requires paying them commensurate with their value, yet it is our understanding that CUNY's compensation offer is far from competitive. The proposed raises are far below what the faculty and staff of CUNY deserve. Job stability for long-serving teaching adjuncts has also been proposed to become dramatically diminished.

We recognize that bargaining is a complex process and the parties are negotiating within a broader economic and contractual context. We have advocated for a fully funded CUNY in state and city budgets. But CUNY management's offer does not keep pace with the full value of other comparable contracts in this round. PSC/CUNY wants to settle this contract but they cannot agree to a deal that undermines their members' financial and professional future.

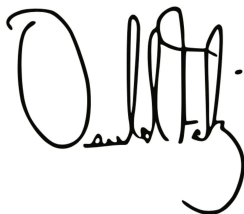
As allies of CUNY, we are well aware of what is at stake for students and the communities that our public university serves. Without a fair offer on wages from management, the University will find it increasingly difficult to retain and recruit quality faculty and staff.

We stand with the PSC and urge the CUNY administration to agree to a contract that rewards and respects workers for their important work.

Sincerely,



Andrew Gounardes, Member of Senate



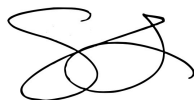
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