

# 1 Resolution in Defense of Academic Freedom & Against Retaliatory Firing of CUNY Faculty

2 Submitted by Joseph Entin, Mobina Hashmi, Naomi Schiller, Maddy Fox, and Alex Juhasz

3 **Whereas**, academic freedom is a cornerstone of higher education, protected by university policy,  
4 the PSC contract, and widely accepted principles laid out by the AAUP, and is essential to the  
5 mission of colleges and universities as spaces of open inquiry, critical thought, and democratic  
6 engagement;

7 **Whereas**, Brooklyn College recently terminated one adjunct faculty member and non-  
8 reappointed at least three others almost simultaneously in what appears to be retaliation for their  
9 lawful political expression outside of the classroom;

10 **Whereas**, CUNY administration has refused to explain the basis for these non-reappointments to  
11 the faculty members and their chairs, leaving speculation as the only response;

12 **Whereas**, each of these faculty members was approved for reappointment by their respective  
13 Appointments Committees and Chairs consistent with CUNY bylaws and Brooklyn College  
14 practices; they were placed on the Fall teaching schedule; and each has an exemplary record as  
15 instructors of CUNY students;

16 **Whereas**, breaking with practices for hiring, staffing, and scheduling at Brooklyn College, these  
17 non-reappointments and termination set a dangerous precedent that chills free speech,  
18 undermines faculty governance, and signals to faculty and students alike that political expression  
19 and activity outside the classroom is punishable;

20 **Be it resolved** that the PSC unequivocally condemns the retaliatory dismissal of these faculty  
21 members and demands their immediate reappointment;

22 **Be it further resolved** that the PSC will assist these and other similarly situated faculty  
23 members in obtaining from the CUNY administration a full and transparent explanation of the  
24 reasons for their termination or non-reappointment;

25 **Be it further resolved** that the PSC calls on the CUNY administration to reaffirm its  
26 commitment to academic freedom and to freedom of expression for all faculty, staff, and  
27 students, regardless of employment status;<sup>1</sup>

28 **Be it further resolved** that the PSC will pursue all available avenues—including legal,  
29 contractual, organizing, and public advocacy—to defend the rights of its members.

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<sup>1</sup> See the recent statement on [“Constructive Engagement”](#), signed by CUNY Chancellor Felix V. Matos-Rodriguez, Brooklyn College President Michelle Anderson, and several other CUNY college presidents which states: "Yet, American institutions of higher learning have in common the essential freedom to determine, on academic grounds, whom to admit and what is taught, how, and by whom. Our colleges and universities share a commitment to serve as centers of open inquiry where, in their pursuit of truth, faculty, students, and staff are free to exchange ideas and opinions across a full range of viewpoints without fear of retribution, censorship, or deportation."