

July 3, 2025

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Chancellor of the City University of New York

Dear Chancellor Matos Rodríguez:

I am writing on behalf of the Professional Staff Congress Academic Freedom Committee. We call on you to maintain the confidentiality of members of the CUNY community at the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce hearing on “Antisemitism in Higher Education: Examining the Role of Faculty, Funding, and Ideology” on July 9. Specifically, we ask that you refrain from naming *any* CUNY employee or student, past or present, and that you insist others, including members of the committee, do the same.

Our concern about the real risk of harm to any CUNY employees or students who are publicly named at that hearing—or in any other context—stems in part from the previous [actions](#) of this House subcommittee, which has shown a willingness to violate the ordinary protections guaranteed by the First Amendment and by the principles of academic freedom. But it stems more specifically from your actions in previous instances when, under political pressure to do so, you publicly condemned and therefore endangered students and faculty.

Your actions in those instances violated CUNY’s own [policy](#) on doxing as well as our institution’s repeated and clear policies on academic freedom. The definition of doxing provided by this policy includes “disseminating someone’s personal information in order to shame, embarrass, expose or intimidate them.”

As Faculty First Responders’ [guide for university administrators](#) shows, working to prevent the doxing of CUNY community members, and to proactively protect and support those who are victimized by doxing, is not complicated or particularly difficult. But it does require the will to do so. At an absolute minimum, it requires you to do no harm. That is, it requires you to not name or publicly identify people who could—and likely will—experience targeted harassment as a result.

CUNY policies also place the responsibility of leadership on your shoulders such that you are both allowed and required to exercise your own judgment and freedom of speech in a manner that upholds our shared principles and values, especially those of non-discrimination and rejection of bigotry and bias. You have previously used the considerable power of your office to condemn students for statements taken out of context and to stay silent in the face of overt and serious threats to the safety of members of our community.

We call on you to break this pattern and do the right thing on July 9 by preserving the confidentiality of CUNY employees and students and proactively protecting them from retaliation and repression.

Sincerely,

Anthony Alessandrini, Chair

On behalf of the Professional Staff Congress Academic Freedom Committee

CC: PSC-CUNY Principal Officers