

March 24, 2026

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Chancellor of the City University of New York
Michelle J. Anderson, President, Brooklyn College
April Bedford, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Brooklyn College

Dear Chancellor Matos Rodríguez and President Anderson:

I am writing on behalf of the [Professional Staff Congress Academic Freedom Committee](#). Our charge is to defend academic freedom as a professional and contractual right of all CUNY professional staff. Academic freedom is grounded in the faculty or staff member's qualifications for the position as reviewed by their peers. It consists of the freedom to teach, research, write, and to speak in our capacity as community members without restraint by the administration.

We write to express our continuing outrage over the refusal to reinstate the fourth of our four colleagues who have come to be known [throughout CUNY and beyond](#), as the CUNY Fired Four. What the Fired Four have in common is their status as adjuncts and their activism for Palestine and in our union.

[As is now well known](#), in the spring of 2025, in the context of far-right attacks by the Trump administration on universities, academic freedom, and Palestine solidarity activists, three Brooklyn College faculty members were non-reappointed for the fall semester at multiple campuses, losing the classes to which they had already been assigned. These non-reappointments overturned the decisions of departmental appointments committees, yet the college administrations provided no reason for this procedural breach. In mid-January 2026, three of the CUNY Fired Four were notified that they could be reinstated at Brooklyn College, again without any explanation from the administration. We recognize that this achievement was the result of tireless organizing by PSC members and their supporters, not the benevolence of CUNY management. We also recognize that reinstatement does not undo the damage of this arbitrary non-reappointment of adjunct colleagues based on demands from management, which makes a mockery of longstanding precedents of faculty governance and academic freedom.

One additional faculty member, who also lost fall 2025 classes, which she was assigned in the spring of 2025, was fired for "conduct unbecoming," a term used during the McCarthyite witch-hunts to fire and blacklist leftist faculty. This fourth faculty member, whose eligibility to teach has not yet been restored, has been put on the "do not rehire" list that applies to every single CUNY campus, despite stellar observations and student evaluations. She has lost her health insurance and her ability to work at CUNY, where she had been employed for nine years with no previous disciplinary history of any kind. CUNY is using a pitiful excuse to fire her: she is accused of receiving a \$5 payment from a fellow faculty member in support of an independently published socialist pamphlet, which included CUNY in the title. University management is using a distorted and incorrect interpretation of CUNY policies to cast this as an offense justifying

termination. The PSC has argued that this improper firing constitutes discrimination based on political belief and union activity.

Our committee remains deeply concerned about the profound damage that has been done by CUNY management's actions towards the Fired Four. While these attempts to discredit the targeted faculty and undermine their integrity have failed, they have created a climate of anxiety that has eroded academic freedom. These firings, along with the suspensions and punishments of students who advocate for Palestinian rights, are in line with the Trump administration's broad, unrelenting assault on universities and civil rights.

We stand with the thousands of PSC members who have [signed a letter](#) demanding the immediate reinstatement of our fired fourth colleague. We also demand an end to management's McCarthyite-Trumpist repression, particularly its arbitrary actions against our adjunct colleagues.

We look forward to your immediate and affirmative response.

Sincerely,

Professor Anthony Alessandrini, Chair

On behalf of the PSC-CUNY Academic Freedom Committee

CC: Professor James Davis, President, PSC-CUNY and PSC-CUNY Principal Officers

Professors Stuart Davis and Emily Schnee, on behalf of the PSC Executive Committee

Faye Moore, PSC-CUNY Director of Contract Enforcement

Professor Lynne Turner, Vice President for Part-Time Personnel and Chair of PSC-CUNY Committee for Adjuncts and Part-Timers

Professors Mobina Hashmi and Joseph Entin, Co-Chairs, Brooklyn College PSC-CUNY Chapter

Professors Beth Evans and Hollis Glaser, Co-Chairs, University Faculty Senate Academic Freedom Committee

Joshua C. Brumberg, President, CUNY Graduate Center

Ari Paul, Editor of *Clarion*

Professor Jonathan Cornick, on behalf of The CUNY Alliance to Defend Higher Education

Professor Todd Wolfson, President, American Association of University Professors

Professor Bryan Sacks, Chair, AAUP Committee on Contingency and the Profession