



www.newcaucus.org

CUNY ALLIANCE CAN'T COUNT

From the New Caucus

CUNY Alliance e-missives, full of falsehoods and misstatements, are flying fast and furious across the internet. CA's latest e-missive about proposed changes to the PSC-CUNY Grants engages in fear-mongering and grandstanding. We'll respond to their false charges in our next email -- or you can go to our website to read our response at www.newcaucus.org/CAfearmongering.htm.

In their first e-missive of the campaign, CA claims, "Our negotiated raises failed to keep up with cost of living increases." First, they intimate this is for the last nine years and then they say it is "since 2002." Their language is deliberately imprecise.

In fact, across-the-board salary increases have kept pace with inflation, and by next October, they will exceed the rate of inflation (see below). If annual step increases were to be included in the calculation, increases would be even higher, and New Caucus leadership preserved salary steps against intense management pressure to eliminate them.

We negotiated these increases through the 9/11 recession and the current economic crisis. Of course, these increases are in addition to other major economic advances; e.g. 80% paid sabbatical, 24 hours reassigned time for untenured faculty, paid parental leave, additional funds for professional development, and pension reform which adds 3% take home pay after 10 years of service.

CA IS ALSO WRONG ABOUT THE WELFARE FUND

CA's wild claims about New Caucus leaders' management of the PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund are equally ridiculous. When we assumed leadership, the Welfare Fund had a history of annual operating deficits and was headed for bankruptcy. This occurred while Rina Yarmish (CA candidate for Treasurer) was the Welfare Fund Treasurer. We took the tough decisions needed to bring the Welfare Fund back to financial health. Today, the Welfare Fund Reserve is over \$35 million. (Go to psccunywf.org/finances.htm to view the financial statements of the Welfare Fund).

CA does not seem to understand that Welfare Fund benefits have always been funded out of our negotiated settlements with CUNY and settlements reached between the City unions and the City of New York. Since its beginning, the Welfare Fund has received funds from both sources. Complaints by CA that a fraction of the economic settlement in a prior contract went to the Fund demonstrates their naiveté and, worse, their readiness to bankrupt the Fund.

New Caucus leaders have a record of real accomplishment, established in turbulent times. How can you trust people with your future if they can't even count?

Here is the truth about wage increases that anybody can check out. Below are sample salaries as reported in our contracts for selected titles, starting with the salary on July 31, 2000, the day before the first contract negotiated by New Caucus leadership. Others show similar increases.

| | Salary in July 2000 | Salary in Jan 2009 | % Increase | Salary in Oct. 2009 | % Increase |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| Prof/HEO (Top Step) | \$86,619 | \$109,674 | 26.62% | \$116,364 | 34.34% |
| Lecturer (Middle Step) | \$42,569 | \$55,350 | 30.02% | \$58,011 (3/10) | 36.28% |
| CLT (Bottom Step) | \$25,346 | \$35,723 | 40.94% | \$36,795 | 45.17% |
| Asst to HEO (Middle Step) | \$39,710 | \$51,690 | 30.17% | \$53,241 | 34.07% |
| Adj Lect (Top Step) (6 Credits) | \$5,308 | \$7,791 | 46.77% | \$8,473 | 59.63% |

The Bureau of Labor Statistics "All Urban Consumers" CPI for New York increased 27.47% from August 2000 to January 2009. Assuming a liberal 2% annual CPI increase by October 2009, inflation for the period August 2000 to October 2009 will be 29.38%.

For more titles and wage increases since July 2000, go to www.newcaucus.org/raisesandinflation.htm

