



PSC/CUNY Research Grants

CUNY Alliance Engages In Fear-Mongering



CA says in their latest email that CUNY Faculty is “poised” to lose control of the PSC-CUNY faculty research program. Then they go on to charge the PSC leadership has been “silent” about this “pending loss.” Both charges are not true.

On February 19, 2009, First Vice President Steve London posted the following statement to the PSC Delegate Assembly list serve:

To PSC Delegates:

Several delegates have raised concerns on this list about the review of PSC-CUNY grants now being undertaken by CUNY. Please be assured that the PSC-CUNY Grants are a negotiated benefit. The University cannot change the grant process without negotiating with the union. The PSC was invited to participate in the University Task Force On The Restructuring of the PSC-CUNY Research Award Program. In response, the PSC's stated position has been that any proposed changes regarding eligibility, scope of grant activity, and the practice and processes regarding decision-making in the awarding of PSC-CUNY grants must be negotiated with the union. Deborah Bell, PSC Executive Director, has attended the two task force meetings that have been held to report back to union officials about the progress of discussions.

While an alternative approach to reviewing and making decisions about PSC-CUNY grants emerged from the most recent meeting (1/29/09), it is the union's position that the

Task Force should meet with the Executive Committee of the University Committee on Research Awards for discussion of substantive issues before a formal proposal is put forward by the Task Force. The PSC leadership will also meet with faculty serving on the UCRA Executive Committee to discuss substantive issues. And, if the University puts forward a formal proposal that involves contractual changes, it will have to be negotiated with PSC.

This statement was also circulated on February 24, 2009, to the panel chairs of the University Committee on Research Awards (UCRA).

The PSC leadership has been in constant communication with members of the Executive Committee of the UCRA since early February and has a meeting with the Executive Committee scheduled for March 17th.

Secondly, the contractual language protecting faculty governance and decision-making in the awarding of grants is very strong. To assert that CUNY management's takeover of these functions is "pending" because management asserts a position in a preliminary report of a management-formed task force is to show a lack of understanding of the contract and weakness as a negotiator.

The New Caucus leadership has a strong record of defeating management demands when they are put across the table because we have a strong record of rousing membership to defend hard-won contractual rights (something CA has criticized us for in the past). It was the current New Caucus PSC leadership who defeated CUNY management's contractual demands that Department Chairs be removed from the bargaining unit, that HEO 13.3 (b) job security protections be gutted, that salary steps be removed, that HEOs be paid less than faculty, and the list goes on.

And where was CA when these contractual fights were taking place? Do you remember any CA emails then? Of course not, because they were sitting on the side lines when the real work of the contract campaign was to be done.

Now that there is an election, CA hopes to capture your attention with fear-mongering and falsehoods.

New Caucus leaders have a record of real accomplishment when it comes to protecting contractual rights, established in turbulent times. How can you trust people with your future if all they can offer is fear mongering and falsehoods?



Barbara Bowen for President

Steve London for First VP

Arthurine DeSola for Secretary

Mike Fabricant for Treasurer

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