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Dear Colleague,

I am Cecelia McCall, a candidate for the recently vacated alternate delegate position, a one-year term. There will be general union election in 2009. The mailing for the May meeting included a brief statement from me that indicated my university-wide and campus service and leadership.

Since this is a contested election, I offer additional information to help you differentiate between me and my opponent. I retired a year ago from Baruch College and, as well, from office in the PSC where I served as the Secretary and Director of Legislation for six years, building, in the latter position, a Legislation Committee that enhanced the visibility and influence of the union in the state legislature and at City Hall. Over the years, many of you have been members of the PSC delegations that met with state legislatures in Albany, and you have attended the breakfast that we hold for state legislators. Similarly, we have striven to be a presence at City Hall.

In 2000, The PSC seized the opportunity afforded us when term limits were established for the City Council. We raised the union's and university's image among the new crop of grass-roots candidates for City Council by organizing a "CUNY School." They learned about the university, our students and were introduced to the PSC's campus leaders, members and officers. At the PSC's April 2008 annual Council breakfast David Weprin, Chair of the Finance Committee, mentioned how much he had been impressed by that experience. I am still involved with this aspect of the union, organizing in May the second annual CUNY at the Council. Students and faculty rallied at City Hall for a press conference attended by several of the "CUNY School" candidates, including David Weprin, Larry Seabrook, Miguel Martinez, Leroy Comrie, Gale Brewer, Helen Sears, Maria del Carmen Arroyo and Alan Gerson, David Yassky and Robert Jackson. All have been loyal to CUNY and pledged to endeavor to restore financing to the community colleges.

I served as an officer-at-large on AAUP's Collective Bargaining Congress and I am still a member of AAUP's Government Relations Committee which establishes the priorities for higher education and arranges an annual lobby day on the Hill in Washington, DC. Our main priority for the last few years has been the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, and we offered the 110th Congress, to that end, a list of goals to improve higher education and "benefit the collective good of the nation." Among them are access to college, quality of programs, diversity of the higher education system, and openness of the academic community; in addition - the cutting of student loan interest rates, full funding of Pell Grants, overturning of the Yeshiva decision, and resistance to the limiting

of free expression and politically motivated interference in curricula. The Government Relations Committee also fought on a state-by-state level an attempt to pass legislation that would impose a political litmus test for hiring faculty.

I say all of this to indicate that I have been and am actively involved in influencing policy related to higher education at the local, state and federal levels and have an understanding of the political process. While some among us advocate that the union limit, if not curtail, its outside relations, I believe that, now, more than ever, we must build coalitions and cultivate allies who will work along side of us to support and defend low-cost, high quality public education, maintain hard-won benefits and enjoin the fight to maintain social security, gain universal healthcare, sustain the environment and hold onto pensions. Much is still required of us if our children and grandchildren are to inherit what we have achieved.

I offer persistence, consistency and vigilance, not a drop-in/drop-out, sometime/now-and-again relationship to the union.