

DSC Resolution in Support of '7K or Strike'
Adopted by the DSC during Plenary on April 27, 2018

WHEREAS, the Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council (DSC) comprises representatives from doctoral and master's programs at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY); and

WHEREAS, the DSC advocates for over 3,500 students at the Graduate Center in their roles as students, teachers, workers, family members, New Yorkers, activists, and academics; and

WHEREAS, the DSC shares CUNY's historic mission of providing access to higher education to low-income communities and communities of color in New York City and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, members of the PSC assembled at the 26 April 2018 Graduate Center chapter meeting adopted a resolution on '7K or strike' on which this resolution is closely based; and

WHEREAS, adjuncts make up 57% of the faculty at CUNY and teach 53% of classes, at an average rate of \$3,500 per three-credit class with no compensation for research or advising, amounting to an annual salary of \$28,000 for the same courseload as full-time professors, who make \$47,000 at the lowest step; and

WHEREAS, adjunct poverty is detrimental to student success since adjuncts, who teach the majority of required courses, are forced to work additional jobs and consequently do not have the time they need and want to dedicate their students; and

WHEREAS, devaluing adjunct labor is the principal means of devaluing the labor of CUNY education workers across all titles; and

WHEREAS, the PSC has rightly put adjuncts at the center of the current contract campaign by demanding an adjunct minimum wage of \$7,000 per three-credit course in the next contract; and

WHEREAS, \$7k per course amounts to a living wage in New York City and is parity with what a full-time lecturer makes at CUNY for the same work; and

WHEREAS, \$7k per course is a bigger demand than what the PSC has won in past contracts, which rarely keep pace with inflation, and thus requires more than collective bargaining supplemented by occasional demonstrations to win; and

WHEREAS, the PSC leadership has admitted in the 26 March 2018 bulletin. This Week in the PSC that "the campaign to more than double adjuncts' pay will be waged not at the bargaining table"; and

WHEREAS, the inefficacy of lobbying is exemplified by the PSC's persistent lobbying year after year for the \$200m Maintenance of Effort bill, which failed to stop Cuomo from vetoing it and failed to convince state lawmakers to override the veto despite having enough votes; and

WHEREAS, educators across the country, especially in West Virginia where striking teachers won 5% raises for all state workers, have shown the power and necessity of striking as an alternative means to achieving significant victories for workers; and

WHEREAS, the acts of striking teachers in West Virginia and elsewhere have been acts of self-care, community care, and care for students, and, analogously, a strike at CUNY would also be an act of care for ourselves, our community, and our students, whose lives are deeply impacted by our viciously low pay; and

WHEREAS, striking would be a significant step toward defeating the Taylor Law and would thus further not only our interests but also those of all public-sector unions in New York State; and

Be it finally RESOLVED that the DSC supports going on strike if CUNY management does not offer \$7k per course at the bargaining table.

This resolution is closely based on a resolution that was previously presented to the Professional Staff Congress GC chapter meeting on April 25, 2018.