



Resolution on PSC Contract Negotiation

Adopted by the Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council (DGSC) on December 9th, 2022

WHEREAS, inflation rates have accelerated this year to as much as 9.1%, principally in the costs of housing, gasoline, and food;¹

WHEREAS, the PSC has historically failed to secure equitable pay raises for graduate assistants and adjuncts which keep up with inflation, and which has in fact resulted in the past in a reduction in the real wages of CUNY graduate assistants and adjuncts;²

WHEREAS, the contract negotiations conducted by CUNY and the PSC in 2019 in pay increases for graduate assistants and adjuncts which the PSC has hailed as “historic,” but in actual fact failed to reach, or even recognize, the widely held graduate assistant and adjunct demand for \$7000 per course minimum wage;

WHEREAS, those same negotiations, which have been touted as an example of a triumph for graduate assistants and adjuncts by the PSC, actually benefitted higher paid faculty vastly more, with the largest pay rises going to the highest paid faculty;³

WHEREAS, the PSC has ignored popular calls for strike preparation, and has undermined the efforts of groups such as 7k or Strike and Rank and File Action to press the PSC into confronting these issues, or to confront them independently of the PSC;

WHEREAS, the PSC has consistently sacrificed the welfare and equitable treatment of graduate assistants and adjuncts upon the altar of improving the salaries and working conditions of non-adjunct staff and faculty, and has consistently failed to protect the interests and even safety of CUNY graduate assistants and adjuncts, such as when the PSC wholly failed to take any meaningful action in response to the dismissal of 2800 graduate assistants and adjuncts during the height of the COVID 19 pandemic, stripping many of health insurance at a time when simply going into the street was a health risk;

WHEREAS, the graduate assistants and adjunct faculty of CUNY teach 56% of the classes at CUNY, and provide educational services without which CUNY could not exist, and which provide

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<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-07-13/us-inflation-accelerates-to-9-1-once-again-exceeding-forecasts#xj4y7vzkg>

² <https://opencuny.org/adjunctproject/files/2009/10/balleisen-in-advocate.pdf>

³ <https://7korstrike.wordpress.com/why-7k-or-strike/>

the basis for employment for all other CUNY staff and faculty, who would be otherwise unable to meet teaching demands or provide teaching services;⁴

WHEREAS, the strategies and commitments of the PSC have led to an inherently unequal and inequitable division of labor within CUNY, in which the exploitation of graduate assistants and adjuncts is tacitly accepted and approved by the PSC;

WHEREAS, the DGSC, as the student government of graduate students, who provide a huge amount of graduate assistant and adjunct teaching services, considers itself as a legitimate and vital representative of Grad Student Workers' rights, particularly in contrast with the dubious commitment of the PSC to Graduate Assistants' and Adjuncts' right to equitable pay; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the DGSC

1. wishes to express, explicitly, that it declares a position of no confidence in the PSC Executive Council's commitment to effectively and equitably defend the rights of graduate assistants and adjuncts, with the explicit exception of the Graduate Center Chapter of the PSC, which the DGSC recognizes as committed to said defense;
2. demands that the PSC Executive Council make increasing graduate assistant and adjunct pay to meet the economic pressure created by rising inflation rates a priority in the upcoming contract negotiations;
3. demands that the PSC Executive Council present plans to its members which prioritize the defense and improvement of graduate assistant and adjunct rights, working conditions, and pay rates;
4. demands that the PSC Executive Council publicly declare that it will accept absolutely no reduction in graduate assistant and adjunct pay, and no freeze on graduate assistant and adjunct wages, and that any suggestion of these potentialities will lead to immediate strike organization.

⁴ <https://www.psc-cuny.org/taxonomy/term/161/dbrill%40pscmail.org?page=16>