

PSC  
HISTORY  
(1972)

Joint Statement of Dr. Belle Zeller, Chairman of the  
Legislative Conference of the City University and Dr. Israel Kugler,  
President of the United Federation of College Teachers (AFL-CIO),  
March 29, 1972.

Our respective policy-making bodies have adopted an agreement to merge our organizations into a new organization to represent the entire Instructional Staff. This agreement is to be ratified by our respective memberships by secret ballot referendum. The results will be known by April 14. We are confident that the membership will follow the overwhelming recommendation of the respective governing bodies. As leaders of the two organizations, we strongly urge our members to close ranks.

We have both agreed that in the face of the onslaughts against the City University staff from without and within, we must unite our ranks, build our forces, gain the maximum affiliated strength from the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the United Teachers of New York State, the New York State Teachers Association, the New York State AFL-CIO and the New York City Central Labor Council. We welcome the power that will accrue to us by association both with organized labor and a united teaching profession.

For too long we have been rivals, needlessly dissipating our human and fiscal resources. Now we will concentrate on making the City University an institution of quality education and enlarged opportunity under conditions in which we as professional staff members can do an effective job.

We shall bargain as one with the City University Board of Higher Education to establish specific and sound standards with respect to our workload. We want to deal with our students as individuals rather than ciphers lost in the lonely crowd of jam-packed classrooms, libraries, counselling offices.

We must bargain effectively to overcome the secrecy and authoritarianism that is present in too many areas of CUNY. We shall establish due process, academic freedom, and democratization in all areas affecting the Instructional Staff.

We have to negotiate the end of cheap labor practices which permit CUNY to employ professional staff members as an economic underclass which undermines morale and quality education.

We must preserve the integrity of all programs in CUNY, fully staffed with adequate facilities.

We serve notice upon the CUNY administration and government authorities that the City University educators have turned a new page in history. We are embarking on a new course of activism, progressivism and responsible militancy.

We call upon all of our colleagues to join us to build our united strength.