

UNITED Federation of College Teachers

LOCAL 1460 • AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFL-CIO

Affiliated with New York State AFL-CIO, New York City Central Labor Council
Empire State Federation of Teachers



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260 Park Avenue South

New York, N. Y. 10010

May 12, 1970

Dear Friends:

The United Federation of College Teachers, as long ago as 1964, pointed out the lily-white character of City University and urged that opportunities be opened up for youth from the disadvantaged areas. This idea gave birth to SEEK, College Discovery and now Open Enrollment. The City University estimated in its Master Plan for 1970 that at least 2100 additional college teachers would be needed in the regular courses as well as remediation.

Despite this fact, several hundred experienced and qualified lecturers, both full and part-time have been fired in violation of the collective bargaining agreement between the UFCT and the City University. One hand of CUNY seeks teachers; the other hand fires them.

Grievances are permitted to pile up at local campuses and at central CUNY administration in violation of specific time-limits. Now a quota has been imposed upon us--no more than three grievances a week will be processed by City University!

Full time Lecturers are being downgraded to hourly paid status losing credit toward job security, vacation pay, medical benefits, etc. Lecturers who are deemed professionally competent may be terminated for reasons outside the contract "which are not discriminatory, such as someone better being possibly available"!

The education of many new young people is at stake. Will they have qualified and experienced personnel or will they be taught in large classes by graduate students? Youth, many in severe need of remediation to overcome academic defects, need dedicated teachers. To do otherwise would be to dash the hopes of those who never thought they would have a chance to secure a college education; and let us remember that a large portion would be Black and Puerto Rican.

Please write or wire your protest to Chancellor Albert Bowker at the Board of Higher Education 535 East 80 St., N.Y.C. 10021. Please communicate your feelings also to Mayor John Lindsay, asking him to fully fund the City University for open enrollment with a complete professional staff in harmony with collective bargaining agreements. Send us a copy of your communication.

Thank you.

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Sincerely & fraternally yours,

Dr. Israel Kugler, President