

ADJUNCT FACULTY THREATENED AT B. M. C. C.

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Adjunct and full-time staff marched at Borough of Manhattan Community College on December 6, 1973 to protest a proposed massive layoff of adjuncts. Responding to a memo from the administration to all departments that part-time staff be cut by 80% for the Spring semester, the BMCC Chapter of the PSC under the leadership of Dr. Bill Friedheim and Chapter Chairperson, Prof. Howard Jones organized an informational picket line.

The purpose of the picket line was to inform the students, faculty, and public about the cutbacks, to warn them that class size could increase by almost half and that the number of course offerings could be drastically reduced. In the intensive writing program of the English Department alone, the number of classes for the Spring is being lowered from 45 to 35, and those sections already averaging 20 students are five students over the maximum agreed to in the contract.

Teachers picketed two of the college's buildings and leafleted others. Student signatures were gathered on petitions supporting the adjuncts and calling for their re-hiring. In several hours 1500 signatures were obtained and delivered to the President's office.

Representatives of the PSC who appeared for the march were: Pres. Belle Zeller, V. Pres. Irwin Polishook, V. Pres. for Part Time Personnel Bill Leicht, Exec. Dir. Arnold Cantor and other staff personnel.

A meeting was held very recently as a follow-up to the protest at which Dr. Edgar Draper and the union representatives agreed on the union representatives agreed on the principles for resolving the conflict. The core of the understanding is that department chairmen can request additional courses to meet registration needs and that these sections will be funded. The implication is apparently that the previously "non-reappointed" adjuncts will be rehired after registration. If this proves true, it deserves a victory party!

The committee meeting with President Draper included Howard Jones, Chapter Chairman; Bill Friedheim, PSC Delegate; Sandy Schmitt, adjunct, and two others.

ELECTION OF CONVENTION DELEGATES

Individuals and slates of candidates have been nominated as delegates to the AFT, NEA, and NYSUT conventions later in the year. You will shortly be able to vote for members of a sixty person delegation plus ten alternates.

At these conventions such issues as the utilization of adjunct and part time personnel in the university will be aired or avoided. They set national policies and priorities.

If you wish to make your voice heard in the union, read the statements and vote.

Dr. Newton was admirably forthright in declaring his total unconcern about the fact that some of his policies were extremely hard on his part time faculty, especially those largely dependent on their income from C. U. N. Y. He declared that the adjunct position was not meant to be anybody's sole means of support and that if they found it difficult to live on their salary, he for one would suggest they take another job. He also maintained that his actions were completely in accord with the new contract to which the union had agreed.

PART TIME MAXIMUM WORK LOAD

We have had innumerable calls from adjunct personnel and department chairpersons complaining or seeking information about the contractual workload restrictions for adjuncts. Article 15.2 and a "stipulation" state that the maximum load will be nine contact hours or two courses, whichever is less. This was recently modified by a further stipulation that low credit courses could be combined in any way up to a maximum of six contact hours.

The stipulations were reached by Dr. David Newton (for the BHE) and Dr. Belle Zeller (for PSC). They reflect the interest of both parties in restricting the number of part-time personnel, in general. But it is important to note that both stipulations initiated by the union and negotiated with the BHE had the effect of permitting adjuncts to teach more hours than originally allowed by the contract.

NATIONAL INTEREST IN "PARTTIMERS"

A report has reached us that the Modern Language Association has before it resolutions favoring part-time personnel. Particularly, they apparently will recommend substantial salary increases and priority for part-time personnel for job openings.

A second report indicates that the National Labor Relations Board will re-examine its policies on part-time pay and representation. We will inform you as we learn the details.

MEETING WITH VICE CHANCELLOR NEWTON

Your Committee on Part-Time Personnel met during December with the Vice Chancellor for Labor Relations, Dr. David Newton. Present were Bill Leicht, Chairperson, Irwin Polishook, Lester Garrett and Arnold Cantor from the Union. We wanted to clarify the intentions of the BHE on the pay base for adjunct personnel and to obtain data on ourselves as a beginning of research preparation for the next contract.

The Vice Chancellor assured us that he did not intend to pay adjunct faculty on a "fifty-minute actual contact hour," as was rumored. However, he was just as clear that we would not be paid for holidays or office hours during the course of a semester. ("Conference hours" which are a bona fide part of the official course offerings will be paid.

On the matter of research data we found him more helpful. He assured us that he would provide us with the data we wished. He had already set in motion his own research work and let us know that he expected to confront us with embarrassing fact at the next negotiations.

In any case, our committee has a subcommittee on research headed by Lester Garrett. He expects to begin receiving the promised data this month and needs people to help with collation and analysis. Please give him a call at 765 - 7948.

PART TIME COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Committee on Part Time Personnel are: Bill Leicht, BCC - Chair; Irwin Polishook, L - Vice President, PSC; Claude Campbell, SI - Secretary, PSC; David Allen, B; Lester Garrett, H; Sidney Cohen, L; Martha Zebrowski, CCNY; Alejandro Ramirez de Arellano, Q; Arlene Louis, SI; Christine DeMers, SI; and Sumner Rosen, B - all pending confirmation.

Part-time Committee Meets 2nd Thursday at 3:00 p.m. at PSC office