

**PROFESSIONAL STAFF CONGRESS**

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**CHAPTER**

**NEWSLETTER**

March 29, 1974

Report of Committee on Sabbaticals:

Sabbatical leave for the faculty of the City University of New York is a fond wish one often applies for but rarely receives. In theory, all full-time members of the permanent instructional staff (tenured faculty or lecturers with certificates of continuous employment) are eligible for sabbatical leaves after 6 years of full-time service in the university. In practice, the application for sabbatical is often rejected between the point of departure—the Department P & B Committee, the point of endorsement—the College Wide P & B Committee, the point of recommendation—the President, and the point of decision—the Board of Higher Education.

The current PSC/CUNY contract lists sabbatical leaves under the heading "Fellowship Awards" (Article 25). Permanent members of the instructional staff may apply for a fellowship award (sabbatical) for the purpose of:

- 1) Research (including study and related travel)
- 2) Improvement of Teaching
- 3) Creative Work in Literature or the Arts

The fellowship (sabbatical) application must be approved by the Department P & B Committee, the College Wide P & B Committee, the President, and the Board of Higher Education. It must further be arranged that the work of the department in which the individual serves can be carried forward effectively during the period of the leave (6 months at full-pay or 1 year at half-pay).

The PSC/CUNY contract stipulates that the Board of Higher Education shall authorize the following sums to finance Fellowship (Sabbatical) Awards:

9/1/72	\$1 million
9/1/73	\$1.5 million
9/1/74	\$1.75 million

The Committee inquiry with the Board of Higher Education revealed that the \$1 million appropriated for 9/1/72 and \$1.5 million appropriated for 9/1/73 has been distributed among the colleges of the City University. The formula for distribution, we were told, depends upon the number of persons eligible at each college—the eligibility list to be submitted by the President. The precise amount, however, granted to each college is a matter of classified information; and the personnel at the Board of Higher Education would supply no further details. According to the Chancellor's Report of the B.H.E. (June, 1973), Manhattan Community College received six fellowship awards for the period 9/1/73 for a total of \$70,425. The amount of fellowship awards for the period 9/1/74 is not yet known.

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Editors: PSC/BMCC Executive Board  
PSC/BMCC Newsletter Volume I, No. 11.

NEXT PSC/BMCC Chapter  
Meeting:

Wednesday  
April 17, 1974  
Room H 458

### Committee Observations:

To receive a sabbatical from the City University of New York virtually requires an act of God. There is no established objective criteria for determining the merit of an application for sabbatical. The individual faithfully states his intended purpose (research, improvement of teaching, or creative work), but patronage and politics are the crucial variables. Notwithstanding budgetary considerations, the recommendation of the President is obviously decisive. The President is empowered with the sabbatical sword to reward those applicants who have obeyed and to punish those who have transgressed.

If you are fortunate enough to have Presidential endorsement, the Board of Higher Education may suspend or revoke your sabbatical application. In April, 1971 C.U.N.Y. Chancellor Seymour Hyman announced his decision to comply with a ruling of the State Legislature to declare a moratorium on sabbatical leaves for a period of one year (Minutes, B.H.E., April, 1971). All sabbatical requests were suspended until April, 1972. During the "lame-duck" period from September, 1972 to August, 1973, the Board of Higher Education announced that "all requests for sabbatical leaves of absence for the 1973-1974 academic year are withdrawn subject to a new contract" (Minutes, B.H.E., Jan., 1973). Evidently, the most unfavorable time to apply for a sabbatical is during the last year of a contract.

Sabbaticals are sometimes awarded to senior members of the university who are about to retire. The B.H.E. graciously waives the by-laws (which require one year of service after leave) and dispenses a sabbatical, like a gold watch, to retiring members of the staff.

The current contract states that "special consideration shall be given to those applicants who have not had a sabbatical leave or fellowship in (14) or more years." Thus, if you survive 14 years or more in the system, you might be given "special consideration," not necessarily a sabbatical.

### Submit Recommendations For Change:

The PSC/BMCC chapter is requesting recommendations concerning sabbaticals to be negotiated in the next contract. Submit your suggestions to your department representatives.

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At the PSC/BMCC chapter meeting on Wednesday, March 20th, 1974, the following motions won unanimous approval:

#### Motion I.

WHEREAS, at a meeting of the College Wide Personnel & Budget Committee on March 8, 1974, President Edgar Draper, in an emotional outburst, leveled grave and unsupported charges of lying and distortion against the MCC/PSC Executive Board, and

WHEREAS, he named Carol Brandon and Mayer Rossabi, serving at that meeting in their capacities as elected Department Chairpersons, specifically in his charges, and

WHEREAS, he demanded an on the spot apology, threatening otherwise to leave the body, and

WHEREAS, upon receiving no apology left the meeting and abandoned his responsibility to serve as the Chair:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the BMCC Chapter of the PSC condemns the President for blatantly violating both the contract and the BHE by-laws and for his inappropriate and unprofessional conduct before the College Wide P & B Committee at that meeting.

#### Motion II.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the BMCC Chapter of the PSC expresses its vote of confidence in the leadership of its Executive Board and encourages it to continue to represent the interests of the instructional staff.

#### Motion III.

That the above resolutions be distributed throughout the College Community, to the PSC Executive Council and the members of the BHE.

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