

**PSC / CUNY**

# **BHE Freezes Salaries August 31**

## **Offers Abolition of Increments--A Wage Cut--in New Contract**

The Board of Higher Education has frozen all instructional staff salaries for 1972-1973 at August 31, 1972, levels, barring all increments.

The Professional Staff Congress challenged the freeze as an improper practice before the Public Employment Relations Board on August 28.

At that hearing, the Board's attorneys spent most of the day arguing that, despite the overwhelming vote of the instructional staff and the memberships, the PSC was not really the successor of the UFCT and LC and therefore we had no authority to challenge the salary freeze.

The freeze, which affects community college personnel September 1 and senior college personnel January 1, is the same freeze voted by the Board April 24. On May 11, Vice Chancellor Newton told the instructional staff in a flyer headed "It's a Fact": "No increment was frozen. No salary was frozen. . . . Not one person has suffered any financial loss as a result of the Board's resolution -- nor will anyone."

He's not saying that any more.

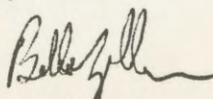
In fact, he's trying to incorporate the freeze into the new contract--offering no salary increases and the abolition of all salary increments.

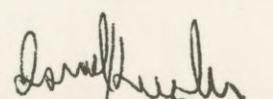
The freeze typifies the conduct of the Board's negotiators since we started bargaining June 19--offering us a degrading, retrogressive, abusive contract.

We have modified our proposals substantially since then in the hope of reaching an agreement by August 31. But the Board has not budged an iota from its contemptuous positions on matters of major importance to the instructional staff, such as workload, job security, academic freedom, facilities and due process.

We will soon report more fully to you on the status of the negotiations.

Meanwhile, we must stand together and present a united front toward the Board's intransigence--its insistence on wiping out professional rights and destroying the quality of the University.

  
Belle Zeller  
President

  
Israel Kugler  
Deputy President