

Conference Leader

Major News Developments and Official Positions of the Legislative Conference

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Merger Special

The Governing Board of the Conference and the Executive Board of the UFCT voted March 28 to approve and recommend ratification of an LC-UFCT merger agreement. The LC vote was 40-3; the UFCT vote was unanimous with 3 abstentions.

SIGNIFICANCE

If approved by our memberships, the merger would unite the CUNY instructional staff for the first time, create the largest, strongest collective bargaining organization in American higher education, give us the muscle of both NEA and AFT, and hopefully allow us to start negotiating a new contract soon.

TERMS

The terms of the agreement (enclosed) are broad. The object of negotiators on both sides was to hammer out the basic principles of a merger agreement, without getting bogged down in all the details, so that contract negotiations can be initiated promptly.

WHAT'S NEXT

The merger must be approved by the memberships of both existing organizations and by their parent affiliates.

REFERENDUM

Ballots will be mailed to all members of both organizations April 3. All members of record as of that date will be eligible to vote. Along with the ballots will be the merger terms and

our joint communique of March 29 (enclosed). Ballots will be due at the LC office by noon April 14 and counted at 4 p.m. the same day.

AFTER MERGER

If approved by both memberships and affiliates, we will apply to PERB for adoption of the UFCT petition for one bargaining unit. Then we will set up a joint negotiating committee and initiate bargaining talks with the University. And we will set up a constitution and bylaws committee, work out governance and chapter structures and administrative details like the name of the new organization (suggestions welcomed).

WHAT'S TO BE DONE AT THE CAMPUS LEVEL:

- Suspend all campaign activities.
- Urge your members to ratify the merger and to get their ballots back to the LC office on time.
- Recruit new members. Unity should remove the objection of many to joining either organization. By joining now, they will automatically become members of the merged organization if the merger is ratified. Our strength in the upcoming negotiations will depend on the number of members we represent.
- Continue the sabbatical drive: get people to write, wire or phone legislators to defeat the moratorium bills.
- Consult your members on the chapter structure they would like to see implemented upon ratification, in the spirit of Item 6 of the agreement.

LC

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