

October 17, 1986

Dear Part-Timers:

Are you satisfied with your working conditions as a CUNY part-timer? If you're not, the Part-Time Instructional and Research Staff Union (PTU) offers you an alternative.

For too many years we part-timers have been denied proper wages, job security, medical benefits, pension, unemployment benefits, timely notification of employment, and the right to participate as professionals in any policy-making decisions at CUNY. Like migrant workers, we have accepted these conditions with an "it comes with the territory" attitude. Many of us have resigned ourselves to this exploitation, as if it were our fate. Newly appointed part-timers are often not even aware of this exploitation. At first, the satisfaction of teaching at the college level, and the belief that there will be a permanent future ahead, obscure the realities of part-time employment.

The Professional Staff Congress (PSC) -- the union that claims to represent us -- on rare occasions throws a benefit our way. These so-called benefits do little or nothing to improve our working conditions; they only help to obscure further our real situation. The most recent example of this was the announcement that part-time faculty are now entitled to receive paid medical benefits. At first, the PSC stated that the only part-time faculty who were eligible were those who had taught ten consecutive semesters in the same department, and had taught six hours (almost always two courses) each semester. The requirement was recently lowered, however, to six consecutive semesters in the same college, because so few were eligible to enroll in the original program. We in the PTU have always maintained that the new benefit is a sham; it is so restrictive that few will qualify, even with the change. It seems to be a provision negotiated into the contract to quiet the unrest among part-timers.

And there is unrest among us -- healthy unrest, the kind that brings about change. We are living under arrangements made by others to suit a different time, a time when part-timers composed only a small percentage of the overall faculty at CUNY. Since the 1975 New York City fiscal crisis, however, CUNY has relied on part-timers to save the University, to paraphrase Vice-Chancellor Joseph Vivona. We have carried the University on our backs for long enough. It is time for us to get a fair shake for our commitment and great contribution.

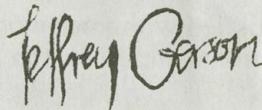
We in the PTU are actively making plans to change the present order, and we need you to join us so that your voice will be heard, so that your future will be ensured. The PTU is a growing force dedicated to improving the living and working conditions of all part-time instructional and research staff at CUNY. We argue that this goal can only be achieved by forming an independent union. Working with the PSC has proved impossible. The PSC's record speaks for itself, and we need not convince you that it does not bespeak a great commitment to part-timers. Every attempt made by part-timers to reform the PSC from within has been suppressed. We need our own union.

However, before we can challenge the PSC in an election, one third of the 5,000 part-timers at CUNY must sign PTU authorization/membership cards. In effect, signing a card is like signing a candidate's petition to get on the ballot. It is a vote in favor of placing the PTU in an electoral contest with the PSC. It is a vote for a choice, something part-timers have never yet had.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT. The deadline for filing PTU cards with the New York State Public Employees Relations Board is **NOVEMBER 30, 1986.** You

must sign and date the enclosed card and send it back immediately if we are to make the deadline. Your card will be kept CONFIDENTIAL. PSC members are eligible to join, as are part-timers who have taught within the last three years but are not teaching this semester. Please, sign the card now and give yourself your first opportunity for real representation. We are also greatly in need of funds to help pay for our lawyers' fees, typing, mailing and copying costs, and other expenses. Please help with a donation; but even if you cannot, please mail in your card without delay.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Gerson
President, PTU

PART-TIME INSTRUCTIONAL AND RESEARCH STAFF UNION
P.O. Box 2314, New York, N.Y. 10009

Application for Membership and Union Authorization

NAME _____

STREET _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

SEX _____ SOC.SEC. # _____ JOB TITLE _____

DEPT. _____ COLLEGE _____

MOST RECENT SEMESTER EMPLOYED _____

I hereby accept membership in the Part-Time Instructional and Research Staff Union and designate the Part-Time Instructional and Research Staff Union to act for me as a collective bargaining agent in all matters pertaining to conditions and terms of employment. I hereby pledge to abide by the constitution of the Part-Time Instructional and Research Staff Union.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

Enclosed is my contribution of: \$10 ___

\$25 ___

other ___

I can help with work: please contact me: ___

GET MORE INFORMATION FROM SOMEONE ON YOUR CAMPUS . . .

Call any of the following people:

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|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------|------------------|----------------|
| Staten Island | Wendy Hoefler | (718) 448-2549 | Queens | Sally O'Driscoll | (212) 254-1094 |
| City College | Jim Ciment | (212) 677-9147 | Brooklyn | Jeff Gerson | (718) 763-0343 |
| N.Y.C. Tech | Rocco Serini | (718) 624-5000 | Brooklyn | Ron Lehrer | (718) 377-0631 |
| Medgar Evers | Harry McArdle | (516) 744-5332 | BMCC | Lorraine Riordan | (212) 995-0008 |
| Bronx C.C./ | Pam Ansaldi | (212) 543-2978 | York | Paul Wagner | (718) 651-7047 |
| Lehman | " " | " " | John Jay | Michael Seitz | (212) 645-7850 |
| LaGuardia | Jim McCabe | (718) 768-1038 | Baruch | Ron Hayduk | (212) 254-2258 |