

UFCT/LC Merger Talks

For the past few months, the United Federation of College Teachers and the Legislative Conference have been meeting to explore the possibilities of merging both organizations into one united group which would represent the entire instructional staff and end the present system of division of the staff, whereby lecturers and adjuncts are represented by the UFCT and professors by the LC.

Both organizations made serious, good-faith attempts to explore every conceivable avenue to merger. Unfortunately, some serious differences could not be resolved at this time and merger talks have been suspended.

The point of contention was affiliation. The UFCT proposed joint AFT-NEA affiliation at no extra cost to members, giving the faculty maximum power and providing a sound basis for ending organizational rivalry. The LC proposed optional affiliation, whereby a member would choose whether he would join the AFT or the NEA. Conceivably half the faculty might belong to the AFT and half to the NEA. In effect, there would still be two separate organizations in the all-important area of affiliation and the staff would still be divided.

Your Vote for Unity

What is needed is unity of power rather than dispersion of power. Fortunately the UFCT is pursuing another, potentially more fruitful avenue to unity among the City University staff: a secret ballot election to determine the exclusive bargaining agent for all the faculty.

Your signature on the petitions being circulated does not commit you to the support of either organization. It does ask the New York State Public Employee Relations Board to designate the entire faculty of the City University--both full-time and part-time--as one bargaining unit for purposes of negotiations with the Board of Higher Education.

Whether the UFCT or the LC wins the election, the situation will be better for teachers and the instructional program. If you have not yet signed the petition, please secure a postage-paid card from your UFCT representative, complete it and mail it today.

It is your vote for unity.

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united action

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