

PTU View

The Newsletter of the Part-Time Instructional
and Research Staff Union

P.O. Box 2314, New York, N.Y. 10009 (212) 790-4447 August 1986

Right Now, Being an Adjunct Is a Dead-End Street

If you're one of the 4,000-plus graduate assistants and adjunct lecturers at CUNY, then you are working under these intolerable conditions:

- * Lack of job security
- * Inadequate or nonexistent medical insurance
- * Low pay
- * Little opportunity for full-time, tenure-track employment
- * Brief prior notification of employment
- * Arbitrary access to unemployment benefits
- * No opportunity for professional development and research
- * No right to participate in departmental affairs
- * No right to choose your courses
- * Lack of respect from tenure-track faculty

As a part-time faculty member, you are represented by the Professional Staff Congress (PSC). This union is dominated by full-time, tenure-track faculty. Do you believe that the PSC has demonstrated a strong commitment to the concerns of part-timers? Think about these facts:

- * The vast majority of part-timers are excluded from PSC medical benefits and tuition waivers.
- * The PSC has done nothing to improve job security for part-timers, or to improve prospects for advancement or rewards for longevity.
- * The PSC refuses to help part-timers in their attempts to receive unemployment benefits.
- * The PSC has done little either to increase awareness of the plight of part-timers or to win adjuncts the respect of tenure-track faculty.

What Can Adjuncts Do to Improve Their Working Conditions?

The Part-Time Instructional and Research Staff Union (PTU) is a group of part-time faculty from all the CUNY colleges who are attempting to improve our working conditions. The PTU feels that conditions will improve only if part-timers form a new union, separate from the PSC, which will concentrate solely on the needs of part-timers. The PSC has represented us for seventeen years, and during that time our working conditions have, if anything, deteriorated. It is time for part-timers to make their voices heard.

If the PTU is to break away from the PSC, at least one third of all part-time faculty (there are currently approximately 4,000) must sign union authorization cards requesting that the PTU represent them. These cards must be signed between June 5, 1986, and November 30, 1986. The cards will be filed with the New York State Public Employees Relations Board by November 30, 1986. [For a full explanation, see the PTU pamphlet "Certification of a New Union"]

**IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOUR WORKING CONDITIONS,
SIGN A UNION AUTHORIZATION CARD NOW!**

PTU Demands

If the PTU is certified as the part-timers union, we will demand and fight for these basic benefits:

- * Comprehensive medical benefits for all part-timers, with no restrictions
- * Job security for those who wish to remain part-time as well as those who wish to become full-timers:
 - legal protection against arbitrary hiring and firing
 - opportunity for tenure-track positions
 - one-year (or more) contracts for part-time employees; no more semester-to-semester hiring
- * Equal pay for equal work: pay pro-rated according to full-time levels
- * Right to receive unemployment benefits, as other professionals do
- * Access to university funds for research and development
- * Right to participate in and vote on departmental personnel and budget committees
- * Enforcement of affirmative action programs for part-time women and minorities
- * Special consideration to be given to part-time teaching experience in requirements for tenure-track positions

What Can You Do Now?

Union authorization cards are available from your PTU college contact (see below), or write or call the PTU at P.O. Box 2314, New York, N.Y. 10009, (212) 790-4447.

Contact us: What problems have you encountered as an adjunct? Have you tried to collect unemployment benefits and been denied?

Donate money or time: If we are to organize by November, we need all the help we can get. If you can do clerical work, campaign, or write pamphlets, please call Joan Wathen at (212) 533-1123.

If You Sent Us a Union Authorization Card That Was Returned by the Post Office . . .

. . . please send us a new card. During June and July the Post Office returned all PTU mail as undeliverable, thanks to a bureaucratic mistake (theirs, not ours). If you tried to send a card to P.O. Box 2314, New York, N.Y. 10009, and it was returned by the Post Office, please send us a new card. This is our address, and the Post Office is now delivering our mail.

College Contacts

For more information, contact any of the following people:

Tom Smith	Hunter College	(718) 275-8349
Sally O'Driscoll	Queens College	(212) 254-1094
Jim Ciment	City College	(212) 677-9147
Vincent Tirelli	Graduate Center	(718) 790-4447 [DSC office]
Jeff Gerson	Brooklyn College	(718) 763-0343
Ron Lehrer	" " "	(718) 377-0631
Harry McArdle	Medgar Evers College	(516) 744-5332
Rocco Serini	Manhattan C.C. and N.Y.C. Technical C.	(718) 624-5000
Pamela Ansaldi	Bronx C.C. and Lehman College	(212) 543-2978
Andrew Kolin	John Jay College	(212) 882-1038

As a college contact you can help organize CUNY part-timers and keep them informed. If you would like to become a PTU contact for the college where you teach, or if you can volunteer to help in any other way, please call Joan Wathen at (212) 533-1123.