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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY LEADERS DENOUNCE PLAN
TO REPLACE CAREER PROFESSORS WITH PART-TIMERS

(ALBANY, NY - MAY 28, 1982) -- THE PRESIDENTS OF THREE FACULTY UNIONS TODAY DENOUNCED A PROPOSAL BY EDUCATION COMMISSIONER GORDON AMBACH WHICH WOULD ALLOW COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO USE PART-TIME TEACHERS AS THE MAJOR PART OF THEIR EDUCATIONAL STAFFS. THE COMMISSIONER HAS PROPOSED THAT THE BOARD OF REGENTS REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS IN NEW YORK MAINTAIN A MAJORITY OF FULL-TIME FACULTY IN THEIR VARIOUS DIVISIONS.

IN A JOINT STATEMENT, PRESIDENT NUALA DRESCHER OF THE UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS, PRESIDENT IRWIN H. POLISHOOK OF CUNY'S PROFESSIONAL STAFF CONGRESS, AND PRESIDENT LOU STOLLAR OF FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, REPRESENTING TWO-YEAR AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES, TODAY SAID THEY WERE SHOCKED THAT THE STATE'S EDUCATION LEADER WOULD RECOMMEND STAFFING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WITH LESS THAN 50 PERCENT CAREER FACULTY MEMBERS. SUCH A SYSTEM, THEY SAID, WOULD CLEARLY UNDERMINE THE QUALITY OF ALL NEW YORK'S HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE. THEIR JOINT STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

"WE ARE SHOCKED THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION IS ASKING FOR A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF CAREER FACULTY MEMBERS WHICH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARE NOW REQUIRED TO HAVE. WHILE PART-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS ARE A VALUABLE PART OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MAKE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE COLLEGE PROGRAMS, IT IS EDUCATIONALLY UNSOUND TO SUGGEST THAT THE LARGEST PART OF ANY FACULTY SHOULD BE COMPOSED OF MEMBERS WHOSE PRIMARY OCCUPATION MAY BE OFF-CAMPUS."

"WE DEMAND THAT COMMISSIONER AMBACH WITHDRAW THIS EMBARRASSING PROPOSAL. THERE IS AMPLE FLEXIBILITY IN THE PRESENT REGULATIONS TO ALLOW EXCEPTIONS IN ANY REQUIRED SITUATION."

"THIS SHOTGUN APPROACH, INVOLVING EVERY INSTITUTION IN THE STATE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE BASED ON ANY DEMONSTRATED NEED, OR ON ANY EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLE. THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN THIS STATE HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPECT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENFORCE STANDARDS. THIS IS A DRASTIC REDUCTION IN WHAT PEOPLE HAVE COME TO EXPECT IN THIS STATE'S HIGHER EDUCATION CRITERIA."

"WE CALL UPON EDUCATORS EVERYWHERE TO REJECT THIS POORLY-THOUGHT-OUT PROPOSAL BY THE COMMISSIONER, AND JOIN WITH US IN DEMANDING ITS WITHDRAWAL."

THE THREE PRESIDENTS ARE MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHERS WHOSE 250,000 MEMBERS, THEY SAID, ARE IN SUPPORT OF THEIR POSITION.