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LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE POSITION ON MERGER

The Legislative Conference believes the need for a united voice for all members of the CUNY instructional staff is greater than ever before. The Legislative Conference is committed to make every effort to accomplish this end.

The importance of such unity is obvious in the face of the regressive, anti-education actions of the State Legislature.

The irresonsible budget cuts which jeopardize the quality of education at CUNY as well as the position of every member of the instructional staff, add impetus to the need for unity.

The arbitrary actions of the CUNY administration further dramatize the immediacy of this need.

Only united opposition to these forces will enable the instructional staff to obtain a stronger contract that will fulfill their needs, enhance their professional status and improve the standard of instruction at the University.

The Legislative Conference therefore proposes:

1. to organize a united front to combat increased workloads;
2. to organize a united front to seek needed legislation;
3. to pool resources for the processing of grievances;
4. to pool resources for negotiating the next contracts;
5. to establish a standing liaison committee to accomplish all of the above; and
6. to establish a joint ad-hoc committee to develop specific plans for merger.

If the members of both organizations are to have confidence in a proposed merger, hostilities must yield to demonstrable and effective cooperation between the United Federation of College Teachers and the Legislative Conference.

We believe that unity through merger of competing organizations cannot be brought about in a climate of continuing antagonism. It can only come from a spirit of mutual trust.

A joint communique should be issued to this effect.

August 5, 1971