THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE, SAYS PSC

SPEAKING OUT VS. CUTS

PSC members, students and City Councilmembers rallied at City Hall to speak out against Mayor Bloomberg’s $11.8 million midyear cut in City support for CUNY. Above, Geoff Kurtz, assistant professor of political science at BMCC, talks about what these cuts mean on a local level. "We've got 23,000 students jammed into a building made for 9,000," Kurtz said. "When we see availability of classes decrease and class sizes increase, education starts to erode." Union chapters are also pressing colleges to cope with the cuts in ways that do the least harm to students, faculty & staff.

MEDGAR EVERS
Faculty casts no-confidence vote
A president and provost are criticized for poor management skills, hostility toward faculty and staff, and distancing the college from the community.

RESEARCH
PSC-CUNY Awards change
New guidelines are finalized for PSC-CUNY Research Awards, which are now in three categories. The application deadline is January 28, 2011.

DEFICIT MANIA
NY State needs a new vision
Ending corporate loopholes and making the very wealthy pay fair taxes is the starting point for solving New York’s budget crisis.

INFORMATION AGE
Librarians open new doors
CUNY’s academic librarians are scholars who empower students and faculty to succeed. Now, they are organizing to gain time for their own scholarship.

400 YEARS
History of race
John Jay prof looks at how our racial caste system was created.

PAGE 5

History of race
John Jay prof looks at how our racial caste system was created.

PAGE 6

NEWSPAPER OF THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF CONGRESS / CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
JANUARY 2011

PAGE 7

PAGE 8

PAGE 9

PAGE 10

PAGE 11

PAGE 12
Correcting the myths on Social Security

● As the economy falters and the federal deficit grows, more and more misstatements are being spread about Social Security. Many claim that the program is bankrupt, that benefits must be cut, and that the age for retirement must keep rising.

But in fact, because Social Security has been collecting more in taxes than it has paid out in benefits, it has built up a trust fund of $2.5 trillion. The program has been successful for 75 years, and even if no changes are made, the program could continue to pay full benefits until the year 2060. Only minor adjustments are required to strengthen Social Security for future generations. First, raise or eliminate the cap that protects taxpayers with $108,700 or more in Social Security taxes. Second, to correct any shortfalls that may occur later in the 21st century, raise the tax by 1% on both employees and employers.

Now is the time to start a grassroots movement. We need to write to the media and spread the word to emphasize the facts, not the rumors. We need to tell Congress not to submit to baseless scare tactics, but instead to defend Social Security and ensure its continued success.

Lawrence Kaplan
John Jay (emeritus)

Health insurance: cost & calendar

● The November Clarion issue reprinted readers about the important information for choosing health insurance plans, especially when we are not even aware of possible increases in insurance rates that will occur over the upcoming year (“NYC health plan choices: how to weigh possible hikes”). Perhaps CUNY (and New York City) can solve some of the strange aspects of a CUNY health insurance plan where the rates can increase in the middle of the year and the consumer (i.e., the CUNY employee) is responsible to pay for any increases.

First, instead of the current Fall open enrollment period, the open enrollment should instead be in the Spring, a time closer to when the new health insurance contracts are negotiated and major annual price increases go into effect in the summer. Second, CUNY (and New York City) should insist in their contract negotiations with health insurance companies that the cost for health insurance should be the same price during the whole year. There should not be increases occurring mid-year. It is a contract. Is this something that the PSC-CUNY can advocate on behalf of our members?

Joshua Fogel
Brooklyn College

RF workers to top execs: don’t be a Grinch

Research Foundation workers from three CUNY campuses and their supporters look on as the Grinch joins their December 22 protest outside a meeting of the RF Board of Directors. They were demanding that RF reach a fair first contract with 700 workers at LaGuardia, City Tech and the Graduate Center after years of negotiations.

That was great,” said one union activist of the Grinch’s picket-line appearance. “He’s living proof anybody can change their hard-hearted ways, even top executives at the Research Foundation.”

NEGOTIATIONS

The union has reached tentative agreement on a number of non-economic provisions with RF management, which has also agreed to their negotiations for a first co-premium proposal that would restrict annual increases to no more than 2% per year. However, the two sides remain apart on several economic issues, including wages.

– JT
City budget & CUNY

Austerity does not make sense

By PETER HOGNESS

“There really is something wrong with the huge inequality that exists in our society,” Bloomberg said. “With such huge wealth in our city, to talk about austerity just does not make sense.” That’s what London, the PSC’s first vice president, told a City Council hearing on Mayor Bloomberg’s midyear budget cuts.

Citywide and on CUNY campuses, the PSC has a consistent message: there is an alternative, and we need the political courage to pursue it.

“CUNY students are being punished for a budget shortfall they didn’t create to begin with,” President Barbara Bowen said at a December 8 press conference at City Hall. “It isn’t smart and it isn’t right to pass the buck to the people of New York’s economic future” by cutting higher education, Bowen said.

About 80 people turned out on short notice to fill the steps of City Hall, with signs that urged, “Invest in CUNY, Invest in New York.” The event was organized jointly with City Council Higher Education Committee Chair Ydanis Rodriguez.

Councilmember Jumaane Williams, a graduate of Brooklyn College, agreed that budget alternatives were both necessary and possible. “The biggest expansion of CUNY happened during the Great Depression,” Williams said. “If they had the money then, we definitely have the money now.”

When the mayor was seeking reelection, he sang a different tune, Rodriguez recalled. At the start of this year, well into the current economic crisis, Bloomberg pledged to make CUNY community colleges “one of my biggest priorities” and talked to City Council leadership about not cutting “what happened to the $50 million you promised, Mayor Bloomberg?” Rodríguez asked.

The strong turnout at the press conference helped convince Council leaders to hold a joint hearing of the Finance and Higher Education Committees on December 13, to assess the effects of midyear reductions. Bloomberg has imposed on CUNY and other vital services.

DEVASTATING CUTS

Bloomberg’s $31.8 million midyear reduction this year will grow to a $16.3 million cut in fiscal 2012. That means a 5.4% cut in City funding for CUNY this fiscal year, and an 8% drop in the year to come. Before these latest cuts, CUNY community colleges had already lost $22 million in State aid over the last two years.

CUNY Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Marc Shaw was unusually blunt about the educational and social impact. The reductions “affect all academic and support operations at the campuses, and will be felt by students at every level,” Shaw said, and he outlined likely consequence...
Faculty librarians ideal guides for info age

By JOHN TARLETON

Fifteen minutes before the Brooklyn College Library closed on a Friday afternoon in late October, a bald-headed man in a gorilla suit came to the reference desk looking for help.

Myles Bassell, a faculty member in the college’s business program, wanted help in his research on the global move toward creating uniform international financial reporting standards in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. Before heading off to an annual on-campus Halloween party that he helped students organize, Bassell made an appointment with reference librarian Jill Cirasella to review his research strategy.

**EXPERTISE**

“I asked Jill if I could meet with her to discuss my research objectives because she is an expert in the research tools available at the library,” Bassell said. It was time to supplement his literature review with other sources, and Bassell needed to make sure he chose wisely in focusing the next phase of his work.

Academic librarians like Cirasella routinely assist other faculty with scholarly work. Their expertise includes specialties such as databases, public documents, historical archives, online search strategies, and library resources at CUNY and other universities can make them ideal partners for other faculty members’ research projects.

Library faculty are also able to play this role because they are scholars themselves. Cirasella has published a number of papers on the history of quantum computing research (which helps her assist computer science faculty) and on the role of Google in research libraries. In her writing on Google, she drew on her own interactions with students to encourage colleague’s efforts to use the search engine in creative ways, and use it to draw students toward using more advanced research tools. She notes that being an active researcher keeps her on the cutting edge of librarianship.

**APPLIED RESEARCH**

Maura Smale, an assistant professor in the Library Department at City Tech, was at the College for a year study with Associate Professor Mariana Regalado of Brooklyn College on the scholarly habits of students at six CUNY campuses. Smale said their initial findings have already encouraged reconfiguring library faculty space to facilitate more privacy for students.

Philosophical inquiry by Robert Farrell, an associate professor in the library department at Lehman College, led to a practical payoff for Lehman students. “My work studying the theory of skill acquisition and expertise put forward by Berkeley phenomenologist Hubert Dreyfus led to developing a new workshop for our Freshman Year Initiative program,” Farrell told Clarion.

The workshop focuses on how to determine the validity of information in areas in which one is not an expert – an increasingly important skill in an era when students are flooded with online information sources, of widely varying quality.

“We are living in a knowledge society,” said Farrell, “and the nature of our profession has changed.” Through their scholarly work, CUNY librarians both keep up with and help shape the changes in how academic libraries operate today.

CUNY’s full-time library faculty, like those in other departments, must meet demands for research and publication standards for promotion and tenure. Their scholarship benefits both CUNY’s students and their colleagues in other fields. Yet while most other faculty receive summer annual leave, which they use for both vacation and their research projects, annual leave for our library faculty is capped at four to six weeks. This makes it difficult to make progress on their research agendas.

“CUNY’s 250 library faculty say they are long overdue to receive full parity in annual leave, and the union has made this one of its demands in the upcoming round of contract negotiations,” Farrell said. “Library faculty carry out a variety of responsibilities that place them at the center of the University’s intellectual life, and this has only become more true with the information revolution of the past generation. Today they work with other faculty to make development of information literacy skills an integral part of course curriculum, and conduct thousands of instructional sessions per year to help students across the CUNY system make better use of library resources.”

Information literacy is the ability to identify the information one needs, locate it, evaluate it and effectively use it. This increasingly vital skill is gradually being embedded throughout John Jay’s curriculum, says Ellen Sexton, a librarian who sits on the college’s undergraduate curriculum committee. Teaching faculty who propose a new course are asked to describe the information literacy goals for the course and how those fit in with the information literacy goals of the major. The faculty member proposing the course also meets with the library liaison to their department to discuss what library resources can be used in this course of study.

“The idea is to get the faculty member thinking about information literacy and what they can do,” Sexton said. “It’s fostering awareness.”

**INFORMATION LITERACY**

Farrell told Clarion that students at Lehman are required to take three workshops on information literacy during their first year. Lehman’s nine faculty librarians hold 75-85 freshman information literacy sessions during the course of the year, and conduct more than 380 workshops per year for all programs and departments at the school.

“Many of an academic librarian’s day is taken up with individual requests for assistance. “For students, working with a faculty librarian at a reference desk is a lot like meeting with teaching faculty in office hours,” Cirasella said. “Given how crowded classes are, students really appreciate being able to get that kind of focused one-on-one attention.”

**TIME**

Whenever possible, library faculty use these one-on-one encounters as opportunities to help students think reflectively about how best to use the resources at their fingertips, building skills that students can use in the future. “We are putting students in a position of maximizing their freedom to take information and use it,” said Farrell, “so that they realize their full potential as human beings.”

The daily demands of CUNY’s libraries make it hard for their faculty to devote consistent time to writing or research without a greater amount of annual leave. “It’s impossible to put out a book if you don’t have a long block of time or a Sabbatical,” said Rob Laurich of City College.

Junior library faculty do receive 24 hours of reasigned time, and Cirasella is using this to take one day of reassigned time per week for her research. She recently completed a paper on peer mentoring of librarians and is working on another on the academic benefits of having an art collection housed within a library.

**PARITY**

Currently, up to 50 library faculty per year can receive a limited five-week leave for scholarly and creative work. Their accommodation must go through several layers of campus bureaucracy to get their request approved.

“It’s not available to everyone, and some libraries are better than others about granting it,” one junior faculty member told Clarion. “We shouldn’t have to apply for it – it should be available to all.” Another problem is the lack of replacements. When taking a research leave means more work for already overworked colleagues, it can take a huge backlog waiting upon one’s return, it’s a disincentive to scholarship.

Librarians’ faculty status has been a subject of contention in the past. CUNY granted tenured-faculty status and rank to academic librarians in 1965. “There was an expectation that they would eventually get the same annual leave as other faculty,” said Bonnie Nelson, a library professor at John Jay who worked in the CCNY library as an undergraduate and then a library school student during the early 1970s.

Nelson said that dream receded in the aftermath of the retrenchment that took place in 1975. In 2006 a new library faculty member told Cirasella she won inclusion in the provision for junior faculty reassigned time after mobilizing to make their voices heard. This Spring, library faculty turned out in force at the campus contract meetings held across CUNY, where they pushed for parity in annual leave.

“I don’t think there’s another faculty group as unified as us,” Farrell said.

Library faculty are looking to build that same level of unity with their colleagues – joining the broad fight for the union’s contract agenda and their equity demands. They are taking the same collaborative approach to union work that bassell used in the heart of their professional work.

Working together is something that seems to come naturally for the Brooklyn College librarians. “Whether it’s helping students and faculty or helping each other,” said Cirasella, “sharing and collaboration are what librarians are all about.”
It was a meeting like no other in PSC history. Hundreds of people took part—from hundreds of different locations.

Edwin Diaz, an academic advisor at Hostos, joined in from his home after putting his two small children to bed.

Alan Feigenberg, a professor of architecture at City College, listened to the mass conference call while relaxing barefoot in his living room, listening to jazz.

Edgardo Diaz, an adjunct at John Jay, tuned into the one-hour virtual meeting via his BlackBerry while he ran errands.

All three are members of the PSC’s Committee of 300, rank-and-file activists who have volunteered to take some simple steps to help win a good contract in negotiations that begin this Spring. The November 20 conference call was an opportunity for the Committee of 500 to learn more about the bargaining agenda just approved by the PSC Delegate Assembly, and discuss how the union can succeed in the face of an adversarial political climate.

CALL-IN QUESTIONS

The call began on a Tuesday evening at 7:30, with an introduction from PSC President Barbara Bowen. Then the union bargaining team took call-in questions from members, who lined up in a queue managed by the phone system’s operator. “It was like talk radio,” said one participant, “but more thoughtful.”

Bowen began with a short review of the PSC’s four core contract demands: continuing to make CUNY salaries nationally competitive; restructure full-time faculty workload; making significant gains on pay parity and job stability for adjuncts; and establishing a path for advancement for those in Higher Load; making significant gains on structuring full-time faculty salaries nationally competitive; re- of the PSC’s four core contract de-

Fosters contract campaign ideas

asked how a variety of protest tactics including civil disobedience could be used to build a mass movement demanding more resources for CUNY and opposing the broader attacks on the public sector. “People have to be able to say ‘No!’ to those things that are not good for us,” Hyland told Clarion. “We need to add this more defiant approach to our toolbox.”

Lenny Dick, an adjunct in mathematics at BCC, reported that faculty and students rallied on their campus on October 19 to mark the 45th anniversary of the contract campaign in November over looming budget cuts. This kind of local mobilization, said Dick, can provide building blocks for “a cross-campus movement.”

At the end of the call, Bowen asked each participant to strengthen the contract campaign by signing up at least one colleague to join the Committee of 500. PSC members who join the Committee commit to take six simple actions, such as attending a contract bargaining session as an observer or encouraging colleagues to attend a future union protest.

Jackie DiSalvo, an associate professor of English at Baruch, signed up three new members at her department’s holiday party the following week. “I just said, ‘We’ve established a Committee of 500 so we can have a broad group of people supporting the contract campaign.’” DiSalvo told Clarion. “It’s a way of participating that doesn’t put too much of a burden on any one person.”

One of those whom DiSalvo recruited to the committee was Mary McGlynn, an associate professor in the same department. McGlynn said today’s harsh political and economic climate, together with DiSalvo’s impressive retirement after 26 years, helped convince her to join. “It seems like it’s time for the rest of us to start participating,” McGlynn told Clarion.

MOVING FORWARD

Those who took part in the conference call often said the union should organize more such calls in the future. “It was a very interesting discussion, one with a lot of substance,” said Jerry Markowitz, a distinguished professor of history at John Jay. “There was a diversity of viewpoints that I thought brought a real strength to the discussion, and a variety of voices that kept me engaged. Everyone was wonderfully articulate.

“At the end of the call, I felt like I could talk about the union’s four main demands more clearly,” added Suzan Moss, chair of the Health and Wellness Department at BCC. Moss plans to pass out sign-up cards to the 31 members of her department at their first meeting of the new semester. “This is a ‘put your money where your mouth is’ kind of situation,” Moss said. “You can’t complain about the contract if you don’t get involved.”

To find out about joining the Committee of 500, go online to www.psc-cuny.org/Committee500/signup.htm.

Fosters contract campaign ideas

Clarion wins labor journalism awards

This November, Clarion took first place in four categories in the International Labor Communications Association (ILCA) annual labor media awards. Judges gave the PSC’s newspaper the top prize for best editorial or column, best analysis, best profile and best photo, among all local union newspapers published in the US and Canada.

Brooklyn College psychology professor Nancy Romer won first place for best editorial or column for an opinion piece in the December 2009 Clarion. Her editorial questioned the CUNY Research Foundation’s decision to spend $500,000 of University Senate money on a union organizing law firm during contract negotiations with Research Foundation employees. “Romer’s clear-eyed exposition guides readers through a potentially confusing thicket of details,” the judges wrote. “Using a low-key approach that respects readers’ intelligence, Romer builds a case on facts, not invective yet reaches an un- escapably damning conclusion.”

Eric Laursen took home the prize for best analysis, for his ex- amination of the relation- ship between the erosion of private-sector pension benefits and the growing attacks on public-sector pensions. “We’ve never explained it so clearly,” the judges wrote. Laurie’s article, in some ways even more timely today than when it was first published, is online at psc-cuny.org/ PensionClarion609.htm.

Freelance Pat Armow has worked for a variety of labor publications, and this year her work for Clarion won an unusual pair of prizes in two different categories: best profile and best photograph. Judges praised her profile of former PSC Health & Safety Committee co-chair Dave Kotchuck as offering “a complete picture of a man with many facets,” from Ko-utchuck’s early civil rights activism to his career shift from physics to workplace safety and health. Ar- now’s photo prize was for a shot of a striking worker at the Stella D’oro bakery in the Bronx confronting 2009 mayoral candidate Bill Thompson outside the factory gates.

AFT & METRO LABOR

Clarion also received two first- place prizes, and l in the annual labor media competition among loc- als of the American Federation of Teachers, the 1.5-million-member national union to which the PSC belongs. Clarion’s designer, Mar- garita Aguilar, was cited for best design among the AFT’s largest af- filiates, while Associate Editor John Tarleton tied for first place for best feature, with his account of Queens College geology professor Stephen Pokar’s research in Antarctica on global warming. Clarion also placed second for general excellence, be- hind California Teacher.

Earlier in the summer the NYC Metro Labor Communications Coun- cil cited Clarion for best illustration Brooklyn Bridge, 15th Fl., Contact Martha Newfield at revolu@earthlink.net.

By JOHN TARLETON

By JOHN STAFF

NEWS

FORUM, FRIDAY, 3 pm: PSC Theater event. Working Theater’s production of “Honey Brown Eyes.” Set during the Bosnian War in 1992, this play evokes the everyday impact of war through the story of two friends and former bandmates who find themselves opposite sides of the conflict. Working Theater’s artistic director Mark Plesant says, “These are people who didn’t ask for the war, but now that it is happening find themselves challenged in the most extraordinary ways.”

At the Clarion Theater on 42nd St. between 9th and 10th Aves. Tick- ets for PSC members are only $820. Reserve your seats today—last year’s event was sold-out! Send your checks payable to Steve Leberstein at the PSC, 61 Broadway, 15th Floor, NY, NY 10006. For more information email steleberstein@psc-cuny.org.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4 / 4 pm: Part-Tim- ers Committee Meeting. PSC, 61 Broadway, 15th Fl. Contact Martha Newfield at revolu@earthlink.net.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 / 6:00 pm: Wom- en’s Committee Meeting, PSC, 15th Fl. Contact Martha Newfield at revolu@earthlink.net.
‘IBM school’ in CUNY’s future?

Plan for a “grades 9-14” hybrid

By ARI PAUL & PETER HOGNESS

In late September, Mayor Bloomberg announced a “new partnership we’ve entered into with IBM and the City University of New York.” According to a New York City press release, CUNY and the NYC Department of Education plan to “work jointly to develop a school that runs from grade 9 through the equivalent of grade 14,” combining high school and two years of college with a focus on information technology and computer science. “When they graduate from grade 14 with an associate’s degree and a qualified record, they will be guaranteed a job with IBM and a ticket to the middle class,” Bloomberg told an NBC studio audience at Rockefeller Center on September 27.

A SCHOOL — OR NOT?

But in fact, IBM has not promised to guarantee any jobs for CUNY graduates. It has made no specific financial commitment to the project, and there are no clear answers about how IBM would be involved with its curriculum. The proposed “school” may not be a single school at all, but a program spread over a number of high schools and community colleges. Although the program is slated to begin next September with nearly one hundred 9th grade students, it has not yet been discussed in a CUNY trustees’ meeting — and there is little definite information about it.

PSC President Barbara Bowen reported to the PSC’s Delegate Assembly that when she called Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, demanding to know why the union had not been informed in advance about creation of a new school, Goldstein said that there was no new school, and that current programs would simply be continued. He also stated that there would be no grades 13 and 14 at CUNY by the fall, and that the plan was not even a school at all, but a program in a co-op like setting with many classes. “IBM envisions that the 9-14 school would be in one physical location,” IBM spokesperson Doris Gonzalez said in a statement, “but it is possible for the students to attend a New York City Department of Education school in grades 9-12 and then attend a CUNY community college for grades 13 and 14.”

“We are excited about the prospect of engaging IBM in opportunities for our students,” CUNY Director of Communication and Marketing Michael Arena told Clarion. “It’s very early in the process, but certainly if this new model proves successful, we would want to build upon that success.”

Terms of corporate partnership are unclear

How much money might be forthcoming? “IBM has already invested in other education initiatives that will be leveraged for this new school,” Gonzalez responded, “such as the work we are doing with Queensborough Community College’s STEM Academy, where we have donated $250,000 in technology and technical services.”

“The level of contribution is still in discussion,” CUNY spokesperson Rita Rodin told Clarion. Corporate funding of higher education is nothing new, but this particular proposal seems unprecedented in the CUNY system — especially given its expressed purpose of feeding graduates into a specific company. Questions about whether a public university should have this close a relationship with a particular corporation might not be the top concern for CUNY students anxious to secure employment. But it is unclear how many graduates would actually benefit from this arrangement.

Despite the mayor’s talk of “guaranteed” jobs, or graduates being “first in line for a job at IBM,” the formal press release on NYC and CUNY’s websites is more vague, referring only to “possible job placement with IBM.” And in recent years, IBM has been laying off employees in the US while expanding employment overseas.

DISAPPEARING JOBS

Earlier this year IBM laid off two-thirds of its US workforce. “What locations and communities had jobs cut?” asked Alliance@IBM, a local of the Communications Workers of America. “Nobody knows, because IBM no longer gives out that information. Now IBM has decided that it will no longer inform employees, the government, communities, the media or stockholders how many employees work at IBM in the US...Only the global headcount will be reported.”

Alliance@IBM gathered information on the layoffs on its own, and by late August had confirmed at least 10,425 lost jobs in North America, mainly in the United States. A number of IBM employees have been laid off and then rehired as full-time consultants — still earning a paycheck, but losing all benefits and any semblance of job security.

Students deserve every assistance in getting hired for good jobs after college,” said Scott Dexter, an assistant professor of computer science at Brooklyn College. “But it would be unfair to them for IBM to over-promise and under-deliver.”

On the program’s curriculum, IBM’s Gonzalez said that the first several years of study would use existing Department of Education curriculum, with the aim of developing by providing students at each grade level with relevant hands-on, project-based learning experiences integrated into core math and science classes.” Beyond that, she added, IBM would continue to discuss educational methods with the DOE and CUNY so as to “ensure that the students are prepared with the critical thinking, problem solving, communications and leadership skills they will need to be competitive in the marketplace.”

In 2002, plans for a new CUNY campus on Governors Island were announced with great fanfare. But funding never materialized, and the project was shelved. The “IBM school” may amount to more than that — but so far, there is little definite information about this information-technology program.

Searching for equality

By JOHN TARLETON

Gloria J. Browne-Marshall

Associate Professor of Constitutional Law & Civil Rights Justice, JohnJay College

MA, University of Pennsylvania

JD, St. Louis University

Gloria J. Browne-Marshall served as a civil rights attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Southern Poverty Law Center from 1986 until 2002, when she joined the faculty at John Jay. In her work, Browne-Marshall explores how the law has served as both a tool of oppression and a shield for the vulnerable. She is the author of three books, including Race, Law and American Society (Routledge, 2003), which Derrick Bell, in his foreword, described as “one of the best, if not the best, explanation of law of any kind.”

The book analyzes key court cases since 1600. Real people put themselves in harm’s way and most were very unsuccessful in their attempt to make change under the law. But, I feel we owe it to them to know their history and their part in it. That’s essential if we want to have a better understanding of how we got where we are today, and where we might want to go in the future.

A FIGURE I CAN’T FORGET:

Mary Morgan. She escaped enslavement and started a new life in Pennsylvania in the 1860s. Several years later a slave catcher by the name of Edward Prigg abducted her and her free-born children to return them back into slavery. The community rallied to Mary’s support and Prigg was convicted of violating a Pennsylvania anti-slavery statute. However, the US Supreme Court subsequently ruled in 1842 that Prigg’s actions were constitutionally protected.

WHAT I’M WORKING ON:

I’m researching black women and the law. Black women like Mary Morgan have contributed so much to the struggle for freedom under law and are nameless, for the most part. Why CUNY? I can have disparate research interests

 права в старших классах. Мне удается изучать разные интересы, которые мне нравятся. В CUNY я могу заниматься исследованиями в области права, но это не устраняет проблем угрозы для здоровья. Мы должны уделить внимание угрозе, связанной с высоким кровяным давлением. Мы не должны столкнуться с трудностями и уметь бороться. Если не будет внимания и ухода, это может привести к тому, что мы не можем выполнять.
Dissent at Medgar Evers

By JOHN TABLETON

A mass meeting of Medgar Evers College faculty on December 8, 2010, endorsed a statement of no-confidence in the president and provost of the college. With close to half of the college’s tenured faculty taking part, the measure was approved by a vote of 59 to 6, with one abstention. It sharply criticizes President William Pollard and Provost Howard C. Johnson for taking a “dictatorial and confrontational” approach.

The detailed resolution faults Pollard and Johnson for poor leadership and management skills, hostility toward faculty and staff, cutting funds from essential student services and distancing the college from the surrounding community, in central Brooklyn, with which it has maintained a close relationship since its founding in 1970.

“There are multiple issues that always come back to the same thing: A lack of respect for the mission and the legacy of the college, and in competence in how to follow proper governance process,” said Brenda Greene, a professor of English and the executive director of the Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College (MEC).

Greene is one of five members of the steering committee of the Committee of the Whole Faculty, which was launched in November by a group mostly senior faculty. The group’s organizers say it was needed because the college’s Faculty Senate was no longer functioning effectively; they cite a failure to meet regularly and a flawed election in which fewer than 25 votes were cast.

The College Council, MEC’s overall policy-making body, was chaired by the college president, saw its November and December meetings cancelled, just as the controversy over President Pollard’s leadership came to a head.

CONCERNS DISMISSED

In an open letter to the college on December 10, Pollard dismissed the no-confidence vote as a statement from an unrepresentative minority. The college has 182 full-time faculty, fewer than 75 of whom are full or associate professors, plus a large number of adjuncts. According to Greene and others, a majority of the 66 faculty members who voted on the no-confidence measure are tenured, and the vast majority are full-timers.

The broad show of dissent, which drew media attention in the Daily News, Online News and elsewhere, followed months of simmering frustration. While the president and provost often speak of making the college a student-centered institution, critics say its actions have undermined prospects for student success.

The no-confidence resolution notes that under Pollard and Johnson the college’s Center for Teaching and Learning and its Writing Center have been eliminated, the number of tutors has been cut, and staff in the library and student computer lab have been reduced, while the hiring of high-paid administrators has grown.

The catalyst for the December 8 meeting was the sudden non-reappointment of at least 10 faculty and staff. Like many others, Eugene Pursoo, a distinguished lecturer in the Department of Public Administration, was handed his letter of non-reappointment by a campus security guard as he arrived to teach his class. Pursso sat down at his desk at the front of the class, read the letter, and told his shocked students that he had just been informed that next semester would be his last.

BADLY HANDLED

“I thought the whole process could have been handled with more dignity,” said Pursoo, who has been at Medgar since 1996 and helped launch the college’s Department of Public Administration in 2002.

Earlier that morning, Sahidha Odige received a letter of non-reappointment from the same campus security force while she was at the circulation desk at the Medgar Evers Library, where she is a fifth-year CLT. “It was pretty public,” Odige told Clarion.

Odige had been transferred from her previous position in the college president’s office to the library last February. Her non-reappointment came despite a glowing evaluation from an NEA official.

“This kind of behavior cannot be condoned in any academic institution,” said PSC Chapter Chair Clinton Crawford. “The college’s faculty deserve to be treated with respect for their rights under the contract.”

Greene said the college’s failure to successfully complete a new building has resulted in the college’sFaculty/admin. conflict grows

research with community service and a focus on social justice, and offer collaborative educational opportunities to students at MEC.

A few of the major projects of the Center for Black Literature (CBL) have been the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and CBL Director Greene has secured a series of NEA grants supporting the conference in previous years. But this past summer Provost John Johnson initially refused to sign off on Greene’s application for an NEA grant to support the next session of the conference in 2012. According to Greene, John Johnson balked at the prospect of having to grant her reassigned time to work on the project, and did not relent until two days before the application deadline, under pressure from an NEA official.

EVICION

The Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions has been less fortunate. On December 3, it received notice it was being evicted from its campus offices as of December 30.

Staffed by former prisoners with advanced degrees, the Center for NuLeadership had been part of MEC since 2004. Its work on criminal justice policy issues and support services for ex-offenders who enroll in college have built a strong reputation among advocacy groups working on prisoner re-entry issues. Early this year, the new administration at MEC blocked a NuLeadership grant proposal for a program in which first-time non-violent drug offenders would attend college or other educational programs under court supervision, instead of being sent to prison. NuLeadership staff had secured such arrangements in a number of individual cases, and sought to expand the idea into a broader program.

Johnson and Pollard, however, objected that the proposal raised insurance liability and security concerns for MEC and declined to support it—a stance that criminal justice advocates blasted as “evening news risk assessment.”

Johnson and Pollard for his work. In a letter to Greene remains hopeful that the past of the president and the provost is a checkered one, said Crawford. “To allow a situation like this to fester can only cause more dissent in the institution.”

While faculty support for the Pollard administration has collapsed at Medgar Evers, the president still has about 800 faculty backing from 8000 staff. On December 9, CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein condemned Pollard for his work. In a letter to Pollard, Goldstein wrote: “Your efforts to calibrate and set priorities in a difficult fiscal climate are to be commended...I firmly believe that your leadership, and that of your team, is advancing the very best interests of the student body.”

Despite the current turmoil, Greene remains hopeful that the situation at Medgar Evers College can be resolved.

“Chancellors will publicly support their presidents no matter what,” she said. “But presidents and provosts have been asked to resign before when the situation became unbearable and untenable for an institution.”

Day-care workers and parents united

CUNY faculty, staff and students are not the only ones speaking out against cuts in city services. On December 8, baby-stroller-pushing parents and employees of the city’s day-care system affiliated with District Council 1707 marched from Bowling Green to City Hall to rally against the mayor’s plans to close 16 day-care centers and eliminate 3,650 slots.
Please take the important step of deciding to vote today!

Why? Because contributing to PSC-COPE helps build the union’s political power to ensure our collective future is a good one.

Here are a few things that PSC-COPE has helped to accomplish during the past year:

- Withheld pay for job-saving federal stimulus funds and extension of unemployment benefits for educators who understand our message: “CUNY is the path to New York’s future.”
- In June we won restorations of funds for New York City support for CUNY, and won enhanced funding for CUNY community colleges during tough economic times.
- That PSC-COPE at work: protecting our salaries, our benefits, our jobs, and our vision for a better CUNY, and working to benefit all New Yorkers. PSC-COPE isn’t just about winning elections. In the few last years, PSC members have achieved pension equity, TransitCheks – all made possible by PSC-COPE organizing.
- PSC-COPE is our tool to organize to affect those decisions. The more contributors, the more of a voice we can have together.
- Joining PSC-COPE is easy. Look for the mailing and please fill out the enclosed payroll deduction form. Together, we can make our future at CUNY a good one.

By RON HAYDUK

YOU WILL SOON RECEIVE AN IMPORTANT MAILING FROM THE PSC – PLEASE LOOK FOR IT!

The mailing contains a letter and brochure about the PSC-COPE program, the political-action arm of the PSC. Now more than ever, your support is needed to build the union’s political power to make sure that government, especially at the state and local levels, is responsive to our needs.

You will soon receive an important mailing from the PSC – please look for it!

The mailing contains a letter and brochure about the PSC-COPE program, the political-action arm of the PSC. Now more than ever, your support is needed to build the union’s political power to make sure that government, especially at the state and local levels, is responsive to our needs.

PSC-COPE donations pay off

By RON HAYDUK

You will soon receive an important mailing from the PSC – please look for it!

The mailing contains a letter and brochure about the PSC-COPE program, the political-action arm of the PSC. Now more than ever, your support is needed to build the union’s political power to make sure that government, especially at the state and local levels, is responsive to our needs.

You will soon receive an important mailing from the PSC – please look for it!

COMMITTEE CHANGES

As a result of municipal union negotiations, CUNY is changing providers for its transit benefit and the program has been expanded. The change has been implemented for employees at the community colleges, the City University of New York (CUNY) Central Office, and senior college employees have received a letter on their enrollment this spring.

The expanded Commuter Benefits Program can now be used with all-union membership, except for the Tri-state area. You will be able to use it on MTA subways and buses, the Long Island Railroad, New Jersey Transit, PATH, and NY Waterway, to name just a few, and you can also use it to pay for parking at or near a public transportation stop that you use to commute to work. Participants receive a stored-value card, which works like a credit card, that can be used to purchase transit passes and tickets at transit providers.

Community college and CUNY employees who were enrolled in the old transit benefit were automatically transferred to a comparable benefit under the new program (the “Commuter Advantage Plan”) at the beginning of December. Those who want to request a change to one of the new options available under the now, expanded benefit may do so.

A full list of participating transit organizations is online at getwireless.com/nyc/transitcard. Enrollment forms and details on how to apply are available at www.cuny.edu/ enrollment forms and details on how to apply are available at www.cuny.edu/
Proposals to reverse these trends is the chief challenge we face in this political moment. To help with the extreme inequality of our society leads to broken lives, wasted resources, and social and political instability. Government can be an instrument promoting greater equality or it can become an instrument to intensify inequality.

Economic challenges don’t have to lead to greater inequality. In the Great Depression, for example, New Deal policies favored the wealthy are an important part of the story of increasing income inequality in New York. If we can show that all students deserve equal access to a quality public college education, we need to reverse these tax policies that favor the well-to-do.

**What We Need**

What must CUNY and SUNY do with greater resources?

- Most immediately, we need to hire more full-time faculty so they will have the time to meet with and mentor students – and provide rigorous college-track support for those who are themselves Hispanic. In 1975, CUNY had 11,500 full-time faculty and 250,000 students. Now, with more students who need more educational and support services, we have only 7,000 full-time faculty. The deficit is made up of thousands of adjunct faculty who are very dedicated and excellent CUNY teachers, but are underpaid, treated as contingent labor, and not hired to perform many of the duties and student support activities of full-time faculty. For all these reasons, current research demonstrates greater student success when taught by full-time faculty.

- TAP and Pell grants need to be made more equitable. New York needs TAP support for part-time students, and increased support for financially independent students without dependent status. If tuition continues to rise, the cap on TAP grants also needs to increase.

- Additional financial aid counselors are needed to support students applying for financial aid – including simplifying out federal FAFSA forms. Too many immigrant and Hispanic students don’t receive Pell and TAP grants even though they are eligible. More full-time academic counselors and better coordination with high school advising are also needed.

- Expansion of “College Now” and similar programs is essential. Many studies on Hispanic college success have underscored the importance of making sure students have rigorous college-track courses. When they enter college, this can be true for all students, but is especially true for Hispanic students who are the first generation of their family to go to college.

- Resource-rich academic, career and mental health counseling services are needed – especially for incoming freshmen. For example, the new ASAP program has succeeded in raising retention and graduation rates among a representative sample of community college students. But each program has two to four college advisors carrying an average caseload of 40 students, a career and employment specialist to help students find part-time or internship work they need and know what to expect when they enter college. This can be true for all students, but is especially true for Hispanic students who are the first generation of their family to go to college.

**Higher Ed Remains a Wise Investment**

New York can raise additional public funds by adopting progressive revenue measures and closing loopholes for the wealthy. (See page 11.) Two decades of tax cuts favoring the wealthy are an important part of the story of increasing income inequality in New York. If we can show that all students deserve equal access to a quality public college education, we need to reverse these tax policies that favor the well-to-do.

**Making CUNY an ‘engine of equality’**

By STEVE LONDON

PSC Fric Vice President

In a December 2010 study, the Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI) found that in 2009 New York State had the greatest degree of inequality among the 50 states and New York City had the greatest degree of inequality among the 25 largest US cities. Nationwide, in 2007 the share of total income in the US that went to the highest-earning 1% hit a historic high of 23.5% – last reached in 1928. But 2007 data for New York shows that here, the share of total income the highest-earning 1% hit a historic high of 23.5% – last reached in 1928. But 2007 data for New York shows that here, the share of total income the highest-earning 1% hit a historic high of 23.5% – last reached in 1928.

The gap between current funding levels and what CUNY and SUNY need to create the system with that much money.

Higher ed remains a wise investment
CUNY FUNDING

Is a tuition increase the answer?

When PSC President Barbara Bowen testified before the Board of Trustees on CUNY’s proposed budget request for the next fiscal year, she strongly supported CUNY’s proposal for funding $250 new full-time faculty lines, but opposed the request for a tuition increase. Here are answers to some common questions about tuition and the union’s position.

A. How much is the tuition increase passed by the Board of Trustees?

In December, the trustees approved a three separate tuition increase requests. If all three increases are enacted, tuition will be 10% higher next fall than the current semester. The trustees have raised tuition by 5% for the four-year colleges, to an annual rate of $4,830 for a full-time student at the senior colleges ($220 annual increase) and $3,360 at the community colleges for $150 per year. Grad students pay more, with annual costs rising by as much as $1,000. Tuition will go up another 2% in Fall 2011, to about $4,925 at senior colleges and about $3,425 at community colleges. The Board also authorized Chancellor Goldstein to impose an additional 3% increase if he determined that was necessary.

Q. Supporters of a tuition hike have argued that no student in need will be hurt by the increase – is that true?

A. It is a myth that NY’s Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) protects all needy students. TAP offers very inadequate support to the 34% of CUNY students who attend part-time – many of whom are in dire financial need – and none, as of last year, to graduate students. TAP’s arcane rules can also be especially harmful to CUNY students. CUNY has 20,000 independent students without dependents who are eligible for TAP but can receive only very small grants and have extremely low incomes. The tuition increase will hit them the hardest. TAP would have to be substantially reformed in order to cover the real needs of CUNY students – and the PSC is working on that.

Q. Why did the union oppose tuition increases in the past, but isn’t the need especially urgent this year?

A. There is a real need this year because of the cut to CUNY’s operating funds – a cut already being felt on the campuses. While total funds from the State this year actually increased, in part because of mandatory costs such as salary increases negotiated by the union, the decrease in operating aid has real effects. But tuition increases will not solve the problem. New York State has systematically deprived CUNY of funds for decades, despite a few years of increases since 2000 achieved through intense advocacy. A tuition increase of any size that has been contemplated by the trustees will not make up for decades of planned poverty. In fact, the record shows that increased tuition is an invitation to the State to cut CUNY funds even further. New York State uses tuition increases to fill the hole created by withdrawal of public funds – but often doesn’t fill that hole completely. The result, when adjusted for inflation and number of students, is a net loss, not a gain, for CUNY.

Q. If tuition isn’t the solution to campus cuts this year, how should colleges handle the current budget shortfall?

A. A cut of the size CUNY has received this year should not require cuts to instruction. Several colleges built up reserves in the past few years, and are not imposing cuts at all. Even without reserve funds, however, colleges can make choices about handling the budget reduction in ways that do not hurt students, faculty or staff. Some colleges initially proposed reducing the number of sections, and then found alternatives when local union leaders pressed for a different approach. Other colleges called for “super-jumbo” sections, but agreed to a solution that made more sense pedagogically when challenged by department chairs and administrators.

The problem: State disinvestment

DEFICIT THEATER

Federal pay freeze: Obama vs. labor

By MIKE ELK

T he Obama Administration, looking to bolster its deficit cutting credentials and show its desire to take on what some called a “special interest” – organized labor – yesterday announced a two-year freeze on the wages of all federal workers. Tim Fernholz of The American Prospect points out that the pay freeze will reduce the deficit by just 0.1% over the next 10 years. Obama’s pay freeze reinforces the notion that shared sacrifice is an attempt to shift the blame for the economic slowdown onto the public sector, as James Parrott writes on page 11. It was the same call that produced the proposal for furloughs last year. By rejecting austerity for our students and ourselves, we are demanding an alternative to the poverty version of CUNY.

The pay freeze is in line with the president’s earlier attacks on teachers unions and lack of leadership on the Employee Free Choice Act. Obama and his advisors calculate that attacking “greedy federal workers” will allow Obama to claim he is willing to take on “special interests” – though he proved unwilling to take on the rich over the Bush tax cuts. In short, it is a work: recent polling analysis by the Center for American Progress shows that as high unemployment continues, public support for unions has declined. But Obama’s effort to score cheap political points by scapegoating workers may have a ripple effect that could impede economic recovery and imperil Democrats in 2012.

“SHARED SACRIFICE”

“Is this Obama’s PATCO?” says Campaign for America’s Future Co-Director Robert Borosage, referring to President Ronald Reagan’s mass-firing of Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization members in 1981. “Will employers across the country use his language and his message to inflict another round of pay cuts?” Obama’s attempt to use the pay cuts for workers as “shared sacrifice” can be adopted by private employers without changing a word. But a cut in wages by corporations across the board could decrease demand, swinging us even further into a depression.

Regardless of the economic impact of Obama’s pay freeze, the political impact is clear: Republicans smell blood in the water and will attempt to push the White House to make even more attacks on workers. Trumpeting the pay freeze as a significant deficit-cutting measure – when in fact it is not – reinforces the Republican message that unionized public workers are both unnecessary and overpaid.

Meanwhile, workers will continue to wonder who is on their side. Indeed, the vote of union members appears to be a turning point. Last November, for the first time in a generation, less than 50% of union members voted Democratic. Obama’s attacks on federal workers will push them even further into the arms of right-wing, corporate-funded, populist demagogues.

“There will be no rejoicing in the homes of workers tonight,” said UE Political Action Director Chris Townsend after the pay freeze was announced. “But the corporate CEOs who frequently dine at the White House will enjoy this immensely as they realize what an opportunity this president has presented them.”

Mike Elk is a third-generation union organizer and labor journalist based in Washington, DC. Another version of this article was originally published online November 30 in Working In These Times, the labor blog of the newspaper In These Times.

Move may have ripple effect like PATCO
FISCAL REALITY

By JAMES PARROTT
Fiscal Policy Institute

With the slow recovery from the Great Recession of 2008-2009, New York’s state budget situation remains precarious. Most states are in a similar position, since their revenues have dropped more than at any time since the Great Depression of the 1930s. State tax collections, adjusted for inflation, are still 12% below pre-recession levels while the need for state-funded services has grown. At least 46 states struggled in 2010 to close budget shortfalls. There is no let-up in sight. Federal fiscal relief to the states has greatly diminished and most of it is scheduled to end in mid-2011. New York State’s revenues are projected to grow by 5% in the coming budget year, but the winding down of federal fiscal relief will cost New York more than $5 billion, mainly in the areas of Medicaid and K-12 education. The pace of the national recovery is slower than it should be, partly because the continuing pressure on state budgets is forcing states to cut spending and/or increase taxes. Fiscal relief to the states is still urgently needed – yet in August the Democratic-controlled Congress could only muster a modest $8 billion fix to help states fund essential services. Fiscal relief to the states will be of increased Medicaid assistance. The real issue with New York’s tax burden is its regressivity, not that its magnitude is constraining New York’s economic recovery. The state personal income tax is mildly progressive. Yet the highly regressive effects of the sales tax and local property taxes mean that New York’s overall combined state-local fiscal burden is regressive. Thus, low- and middle-income families pay a higher share of their incomes in state and local taxes than the wealthiest families do. Even with the temporary surcharge, the wealthiest one percent of New York’s taxpayers paid 8.4% of their income in state and local taxes while the middle in comes quintile or one-fifth of taxpayers paid 11.6% in state and local taxes and the poorest one-fifth paid 17.4%.

Solutions

In an April 2010 report (available at www.fiscalpolicy.org), the Fiscal Policy Institute and the Center for Working Families advanced several proposals for how Wall Street could help the state’s finances recover from the financial-sector-induced Great Recession. Options include a temporary windfall profits tax, a bonus recapture tax, updating the taxation of financial firms (especially hedge funds), and a reduction in the stock transfer tax rebate. New York’s community corporate benefits from several corporate tax loopholes and from excessively generous business tax breaks, also known as “tax expenditures,” that were enacted with the hope of promoting economic and job growth. FPI recently estimated that the state’s “spend” $5 billion annually on a wide variety of business tax expenditures that lack accountability, transparency and effectiveness. Such programs should be closely examined for possible savings.

The job of closing New York’s upcoming budget gaps over the last two years has been aided considerably by a temporary increase in personal income taxes on high income earners. However, the temporary income tax increase is due to expire at the end of 2011. The surcharge – which raised the state’s top tax rate for married couples from 6.85% to 7.85% for income above $300,000, and to 8.97% above $500,000 – generates $4-5 billion a year. It should be extended at least until state tax revenues recover from the recession. Most of this surcharge is paid by the richest one percent of taxpayers, who have annual incomes over $650,000. A recent FPI report documented that the top one percent increased their share of total income in New York from 10% in 1988 to 57% in 2007, a level of inequality far above the national average. Not surprisingly, New York has the most polarized income of all states. New York City is the most polarized among the largest 25 cities. (For more details, see www.fiscalpolicy.org.)

The state should seek to close corporate tax loopholes and from excessively generous business tax breaks, also known as “tax expenditures,” that were enacted with the hope of promoting economic and job growth. FPI recently estimated that the state’s “spend” $5 billion annually on a wide variety of business tax expenditures that lack accountability, transparency and effectiveness. Such programs should be closely examined for possible savings.

The job of closing New York’s upcoming budget gaps over the last two years has been aided considerably by a temporary increase in personal income taxes on high income earners. However, the temporary income tax increase is due to expire at the end of 2011. The surcharge – which raised the state’s top tax rate for married couples from 6.85% to 7.85% for income above $300,000, and to 8.97% above $500,000 – generates $4-5 billion a year. It should be extended at least until state tax revenues recover from the recession. Most of this surcharge is paid by the richest one percent of taxpayers, who have annual incomes over $650,000. A recent FPI report documented that the top one percent increased their share of total income in New York from 10% in 1988 to 57% in 2007, a level of inequality far above the national average. Not surprisingly, New York has the most polarized income of all states. New York City is the most polarized among the largest 25 cities. (For more details, see www.fiscalpolicy.org.)

The real issue with New York’s tax burden is its regressivity, not that its magnitude is constraining New York’s economic recovery. The state personal income tax is mildly progressive. Yet the highly regressive effects of the sales tax and local property taxes mean that New York’s overall combined state-local fiscal burden is regressive. Thus, low- and middle-income families pay a higher share of their incomes in state and local taxes than the wealthiest families do. Even with the temporary surcharge, the wealthiest one percent of New York’s taxpayers paid 8.4% of their income in state and local taxes while the middle in comes quintile or one-fifth of taxpayers paid 11.6% in state and local taxes and the poorest one-fifth paid 17.4%.

This is a corrected version of the article in the print edition.

Clarion | January 2011
Editor: Peter Hugoson / Associate Editor: John Tarkenton / Designer: Margarita Aquilar / Proofreader: Matt Schlicht
Research awards: time is now

PSC-CUNY Research Awards have been a vital source of funding for four decades, especially for junior faculty. Now, the size of these awards are expanding and so too the opportunity they offer. However, you won’t be considered for the grant if you don’t get your application in on time!

This year’s deadline is January 28, 2011. In future years, the deadline will be January 15. For more information about PSC-CUNY Research Awards, see article below. If you know a junior faculty member who is unaware of the application deadline, please inform them. Senior faculty are also eligible to apply.

CUNY and the PSC have finalized agreement on new guidelines for the PSC-CUNY Research Awards, which will govern a three-year pilot program beginning this year.

The application deadline for this cycle of awards is January 28, 2011. In future years, the deadline will be January 15, but it was extended this year due to the time it took to work out all the details of the pilot program. All applications, as in the past, must be submitted electronically; for most awards, the project description will be limited to three pages.

GUIDELINES

Full text of the guidelines are on the CUNY Research Foundation website (see tinyurl.com/PSC-CUNYAWARDS-guidelines). Details on the online application process are available at tinyurl.com/PSC-CUNYAWARDS-apply.

Under the new guidelines, applications must now be submitted for one of three categories of awards:

- “Traditional A” Awards, of up to $15,000.
- “Traditional B” Awards, of more than $3,500 and up to $6,000.
- Enhanced Awards, of more than $6,000 and up to $12,000.

Last year the average award was about $3,400. This year the largest number of grants will be Traditional A Awards, with about 75-80% of the money available for the two Traditional Awards allocated to the Traditional A category. In addition, the total income limit for summer salary applicants has been raised to $8,418 for the 2010-11 academic year.

The application deadline for this year is January 28. In future years, the deadline will be January 15. For more information about PSC-CUNY Research Awards, see article below. If you know a junior faculty member who is unaware of the application deadline, please inform them. Senior faculty are also eligible to apply.

CUNY and the PSC have finalized agreement on new guidelines for the PSC-CUNY Research Awards, which will govern a three-year pilot program beginning this year.

The application deadline for this cycle of awards is January 28, 2011. In future years, the deadline will be January 15, but it was extended this year due to the time it took to work out all the details of the pilot program. All applications, as in the past, must be submitted electronically; for most awards, the project description will be limited to three pages.

GUIDELINES

Full text of the guidelines are on the CUNY Research Foundation website (see tinyurl.com/PSC-CUNYAWARDS-guidelines). Details on the online application process are available at tinyurl.com/PSC-CUNYAWARDS-apply.

Under the new guidelines, applications must now be submitted for one of three categories of awards:

- “Traditional A” Awards, of up to $15,000.
- “Traditional B” Awards, of more than $3,500 and up to $6,000.
- Enhanced Awards, of more than $6,000 and up to $12,000.

Last year the average award was about $3,400. This year the largest number of grants will be Traditional A Awards, with about 75-80% of the money available for the two Traditional Awards allocated to the Traditional A category. In addition, the total income limit for summer salary applicants has been raised to $8,418 for the 2010-11 academic year.

The application deadline for this year is January 28. In future years, the deadline will be January 15. For more information about PSC-CUNY Research Awards, see article below. If you know a junior faculty member who is unaware of the application deadline, please inform them. Senior faculty are also eligible to apply.

Faculty members like Carlos Meriles (above), an associate professor of physics at CCNY, will be able to apply for larger PSC-CUNY Research Awards starting in 2011.

CUNY and the PSC have finalized agreement on new guidelines for the PSC-CUNY Research Awards, which will govern a three-year pilot program beginning this year.

The application deadline for this cycle of awards is January 28, 2011. In future years, the deadline will be January 15, but it was extended this year due to the time it took to work out all the details of the pilot program. All applications, as in the past, must be submitted electronically; for most awards, the project description will be limited to three pages.

GUIDELINES

Full text of the guidelines are on the CUNY Research Foundation website (see tinyurl.com/PSC-CUNYAWARDS-guidelines). Details on the online application process are available at tinyurl.com/PSC-CUNYAWARDS-apply.

Under the new guidelines, applications must now be submitted for one of three categories of awards:

- “Traditional A” Awards, of up to $15,000.
- “Traditional B” Awards, of more than $3,500 and up to $6,000.
- Enhanced Awards, of more than $6,000 and up to $12,000.

Last year the average award was about $3,400. This year the largest number of grants will be Traditional A Awards, with about 75-80% of the money available for the two Traditional Awards allocated to the Traditional A category. In addition, the total income limit for summer salary applicants has been raised to $8,418 for the 2010-11 academic year.

The application deadline for this year is January 28. In future years, the deadline will be January 15. For more information about PSC-CUNY Research Awards, see article below. If you know a junior faculty member who is unaware of the application deadline, please inform them. Senior faculty are also eligible to apply.

Faculty members like Carlos Meriles (above), an associate professor of physics at CCNY, will be able to apply for larger PSC-CUNY Research Awards starting in 2011.

By CLARION STAFF

New shape of PSC-CUNY Awards

Deadline this year is January 28

A new application process expands opportunity.

Faculty members like Carlos Meriles (above), an associate professor of physics at CCNY, will be able to apply for larger PSC-CUNY Research Awards starting in 2011.