

What is PSC/CUNY COPE?

PSC/CUNY COPE is the political action arm of the PSC and part of the VOTE-COPE program of our state and national affiliate unions: the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), respectively. All of the victories and political and legislative goals you read about in these pages are pursued with financial support from COPE (Committee on Political Education).

VOTE-COPE is funded through voluntary contributions from hundreds of PSC members like you, as well as union members throughout NYSUT and the AFT. PSC/CUNY COPE funds are separate from your union dues. Every PSC/CUNY COPE dollar you contribute is divided between the PSC, NYSUT and the AFT; 40% of PSC members' contributions go to the PSC for our political action work. Some of the money that goes to NYSUT and the AFT is also used for PSC priorities; NYSUT's full-time lobbyists, for instance, spend a portion of their time advocating for our agenda, such as the pension equity bill. NYSUT and AFT VOTE-COPE funded work also includes advocacy around a broader agenda on higher education policy, education policy, labor rights and social justice.

Ok, I filled out the form but I want to do more. Can I?

Three ideas:

1. Pass this brochure to a colleague—let them know you signed up and why. You can even suggest that they sign up too. (If you've used the form that came with this brochure, you can get another one by calling the PSC office, 212-354-1252 or requesting one through the website, www.psc-pac.org).
2. Go to the PSC political action website (www.psc-pac.org) and tell us why you give—the more specific, the better. What's your vision of CUNY's future? What are you fighting for? Let us know!
3. Sign up to lobby with the PSC. There are opportunities to go to Albany, as well as talk with lawmakers here in their district offices. You can go to City Hall or stay in your borough. Call Amanda Magalhaes in the PSC office, 212-354-1252, and let her know you'd like to join the fight.

"The more members who give, the stronger our union's political force. I give, and I feel every PSC/CUNY COPE contributor behind me when I testify in Albany or at the City Council and when I press the governor and mayor for more funds for CUNY. The PSC's arguments are persuasive, our vision for the University is moving, and the more PSC/CUNY COPE contributors we have with us the stronger our advocacy for our members and students."



—Barbara Bowen,
PSC President

"The public policy arena is where we fight to prioritize investments in public higher education, especially in these budgetary dark times. PSC/CUNY COPE helps us maintain and influence political support for public higher education, and CUNY specifically, within the walls of City Hall, down the halls of the Capitol in Albany, or on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C."

—Assistant Professor Joel Kuszai,
Queensborough Community College

Two ways to contribute

THERE ARE TWO WAYS you can contribute to PSC/CUNY COPE: active CUNY employees can contribute either by payroll deductions (fill out the enclosed form) or by a direct contribution by check (payable to PSC/CUNY COPE). Payroll deduction contributions are much better for the union because they reduce administrative work and enable us to budget more effectively into the future. So, please fill out your PSC/CUNY COPE form and mail it in today. (If this brochure's form is missing, you can always get one by calling the PSC office, 212-354-1252 or requesting one through the website, www.psc-pac.org). We suggest a contribution of \$10 per pay period. Please contribute whatever you can.

PSC / CUNY

NYC's higher education union



Professional Staff Congress

PSC/CUNY COPE

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR OUR MEMBERS, OUR STUDENTS, OUR CUNY

December 2010

WHY CONTRIBUTE TO PSC/CUNY COPE?

BECAUSE *your professional life and personal well-being depend on it.*

Here's what PSC/CUNY COPE has helped to accomplish during the past year:

- ▶ We fought off furloughs and pay lags
- ▶ We beat back an inferior pension tier and CUNY/SUNY privatization (PHEEIA)
- ▶ We won job-saving federal stimulus funds and extension of unemployment benefits
- ▶ We won landmark national health insurance legislation
- ▶ We won major national legislation increasing federal Pell Grants and reforming subsidized student loans
- ▶ We won significant regulatory controls on Wall Street
- ▶ We elected state and local lawmakers who get it: CUNY is the Path to New York's Future
- ▶ We restored New York City budget cuts to CUNY and won enhanced funding for CUNY Community Colleges during tough economic times!
That's PSC/CUNY COPE at work—benefiting all New Yorkers, protecting our salaries, our benefits, our jobs, and our vision for a better CUNY.
In previous years, PSC/CUNY COPE made all this possible:
 - ▶ pension reform: the state now contributes an additional 3% to our TIAA-CREF accounts after ten years of service; and cost-of-living increases for TRS pension participants
 - ▶ TransitChek, a tax-free transit benefit
 - ▶ beating back legislative assaults on academic freedom

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I give because...



"I want to ensure the University has the resources for me to do my job for the rest of my career. To shift the political climate in our city, state, and country is a long term project. That means starting now. So I'm giving now."

—Assistant Professor
Geoffrey Kurtz, BMCC

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Letter from Ron Hayduk PSC/CUNY COPE Coordinator

Dear Colleague,

What is PSC/CUNY COPE about? It's about building political power and our collective future. It's about building the capacity to improve our lives, and to improve CUNY for ourselves, our students and for all of New York. Contributing to PSC/CUNY COPE is in our own self-interest.

As a relatively new faculty member, I hope to have a long future at CUNY, and I want it to be a good one. We need CUNY fully funded, with more time for students, more support for their education, more space, better salaries – I could keep going. You probably have your own list of hopes for CUNY's future. The point is, PSC/CUNY COPE is an important way to realize those hopes. So if you care about your future, your future at CUNY, and CUNY's

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I give because...

“I give to PSC/CUNY COPE because it enables us, as the PSC, to influence Albany and City Hall on behalf of our members and our students. I know some people are already sharpening their axes to cut CUNY’s budget—we need to be there to stand up for what’s right.”



—Eileen Moran, retiree, Queens College



We worked years to win pension equity. My paycheck is bigger because of PSC/CUNY COPE—that’s why I contribute.”

—Vera Weekes, Higher Education Associate, Medgar Evers College

“I worked with the Legislative Committee of the PSC, and I saw how effective the COPE dollars are in defending and advancing the interests of CUNY faculty and staff. This is a very effective way for the union to exert its power. I am proud to support the union’s legislative work through my contribution to COPE.”

—Michael Batson, Adjunct Lecturer, College of Staten Island

“I support various causes around the globe; how can I be apathetic to issues that affect me and my fellow CUNY workers? We have been fighting for unemployment insurance for adjuncts, as well as larger allocations for CUNY for many years. I lobby in Albany and at my local legislators’ offices, whenever I can, and I contribute \$6 a month for PSC/CUNY COPE. Legislative action has always been a critical component of advances for CUNY.”



—Marcia Newfield, Adjunct Lecturer, Borough of Manhattan Community College



“As a CUNY professor, I’m a public employee. It’s imperative that my voice—and all our voices—be heard by the political leaders who fund CUNY. PSC/CUNY COPE is our microphone. Contributing to PSC/CUNY COPE is an investment in my professional future.”

—Associate Professor Alex Vitale, Brooklyn College

“PSC/CUNY COPE builds union power! Our contributions allow us to counter corporate PACs and business interests who want to shrink the public sector and balance the budget on the backs of working people and our students. With PSC/CUNY COPE dollars we can go to the public, ask for their support, and mobilize the political will to increase access and excellence at CUNY.”



—Steve London, PSC First Vice President

Letter from Ron Hayduk

(Continued from page 1) future in New York—do yourself a favor. Sign up and contribute.



PSC/CUNY COPE pays for the work of the PSC Legislation Committee. We’ve been busy the last year, and we have accomplished a lot! We helped elect a new City Council that increased funding to CUNY community colleges in a tough budget year, and a President and Congress that increased Pell Grants for our students. We’ve endorsed dozens of pro-CUNY, pro-union candidates for state office in 2010. Go to our website (www.psc-pac.org/) to see the results and find out how you can get involved.

PSC/CUNY COPE isn’t just about winning elections. In the last few years, PSC members have gotten pension equity, health insurance for graduate employees, TransitChecks—all made possible by PSC/CUNY COPE contributions. We’re still fighting for unemployment insurance for part-time faculty and adequate resources for our students, against budget cuts, and more. Your donation makes this happen.

Please, join us. The future of our profession and our institution is bound to decisions coming out of City Hall, Albany and Washington. PSC/CUNY COPE is how we influence those decisions. The more contributors, the more contributions, the more influence we can have.

Joining is easy. Fill out the enclosed payroll deduction form today, and you’re in.

Together, we can make our future at CUNY a good one.

In solidarity,
Ron Hayduk

Professor of Political Science,
PSC/CUNY COPE Coordinator

Why contribute to PSC/CUNY COPE?

(Continued from page 1)

- ▶ enhancements of CUNY’s budgets
- ▶ winning more full-time lines for CUNY and protecting tenure

But the challenges of a weakened economy and tighter budgets are here, now. And we are ready for them.

We will fight for:

- ▶ increased funding for CUNY with more full-time lines, pay increases for faculty and staff, and improved facilities
- ▶ access to unemployment insurance for adjunct faculty
- ▶ federal labor law reform
- ▶ Faculty And College Excellence (FACE) legislation—to set state standards and reverse the crisis in instructional staffing at New York’s public colleges and universities
- ▶ more financial support for our students without raising tuition
- ▶ more counselors and other support services for our students
- ▶ progressive income tax changes to fill the gap in city and state budgets

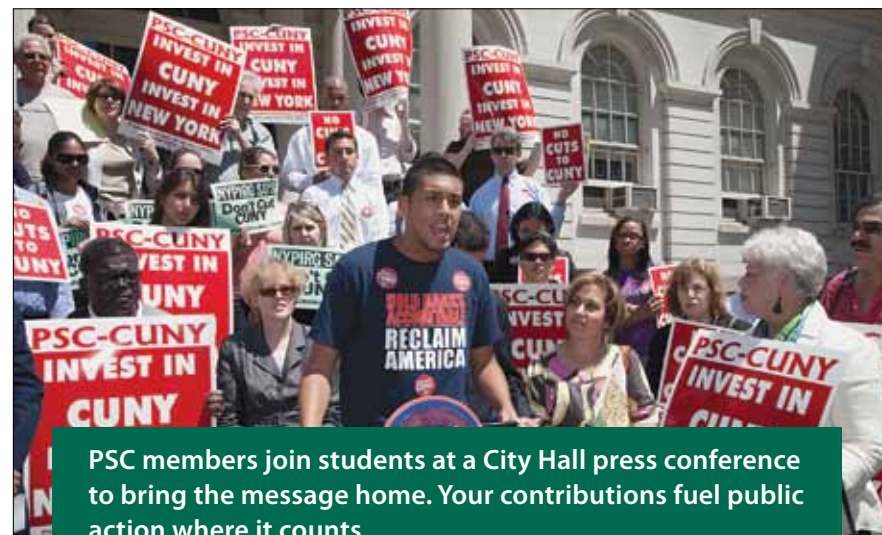
- ▶ anti-bullying legislation to protect members from abusive supervisors

How will we win all this? With your PSC/CUNY COPE contributions and the activism of members like you.

Politically active PSC members tell lawmakers in City Hall, in Albany and in Washington all about it: what it’s like in our classrooms and in our offices. We explain what our students deal with every day. We remind them that CUNY is the Path to New York’s Future.

PSC/CUNY COPE provides the funds that make our political work possible. It pays for transportation to Albany, flyers for endorsed candidates, brochures like this one, and our new website (www.psc-pac.org/), PSC/CUNY COPE funds our political contributions to pro-CUNY, pro-labor candidates. That’s why the PSC needs you to be a PSC/CUNY COPE contributor. PSC/CUNY COPE is funded through voluntary contributions, and PSC/CUNY COPE funds are separate from your union dues.

Consider it an investment in New York’s Future.



PSC members join students at a City Hall press conference to bring the message home. Your contributions fuel public action where it counts.

“Fighting for more resources for CUNY is really important to me and giving to PSC/CUNY COPE is one way I help that fight.”



Distinguished Professor
Frances Fox Piven, Graduate Center



“Money is tight, but we need to donate to PSC/CUNY COPE now more than ever because there is so much more at stake! Our working conditions, as well as the learning conditions

of our students, are determined greatly by political decisions at the City and the State. One way to make our voices louder than ever is for even more of us to contribute—even just a few dollars a paycheck makes a big difference when we all do it.”

—Lizette Colón, Counselor, Hostos Community College

“I give to PSC/CUNY COPE because money paid by PSC/CUNY COPE secures important benefits. For example, PSC/CUNY COPE money helped our union win legislation that secured an additional 3% in my pocket when the state picked up my contribution to the Optional Retirement Plan. Money is tight, but I will continue to contribute because together, we can win things that I cannot win alone.”



—Iris DeLutro, Senior Counselor, Queens College