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## FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> UPDATE

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**"You will find on the union website letters to the Chancellor, the Mayor and the Governor demanding that their representatives come to the table and stay at the table until a fair contract is finalized, and that they honor the November 14 agreement on a conceptual framework. I urge you to take the time to let the other side know how you feel prior to the February 16 negotiating session. Go to [www.psc-cuny.org](http://www.psc-cuny.org) and click on the box that says 'Act Now!'"**

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February 2, 2006

Dear PSC Members, Colleagues and Friends,

The union negotiating team welcomes Chancellor Goldstein's news that on February 16 CUNY will come to the bargaining table with the City and State to continue negotiations on the conceptual framework for an agreement that CUNY sent to City and State officials on November 14, 2005. February 16, however, is three months after the framework was agreed on and three years after the expiration of our contract.

It's time for CUNY to commit itself to continuous negotiations. The PSC negotiating team calls on CUNY, the City and the State to remain at the table and negotiate until we finalize a fair contract.

We will listen carefully to what CUNY, the State and the City have to say on February 16, and we will evaluate what Goldstein calls CUNY's "modified" proposals. While the union has had indications that CUNY has had problems gaining approval from the City and State for the framework on which we agreed at the bargaining table, Chancellor Goldstein has not, as of this writing, shared with the union the formal proposal CUNY plans to present on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

If CUNY's "modifications" of the framework deviate significantly from the November 14 agreement, negotiations may be difficult. With your support, we are committed to staying at the table as long as it takes to settle a contract that is consistent with the goals you identified and fought for in this round of bargaining.

The document CUNY sent to City and State officials on November 14, 2005 was titled "Draft Conceptual Framework for an Agreement between the PSC and CUNY." Yet Goldstein's February 1 letter pointedly avoids the word "agreement"; instead, he refers repeatedly to "understandings." What we reached with CUNY was more than an understanding; it was an agreement—with costs detailed to the hundredths of a percentage and details of contract language resolved.

As I explained in my last message, much of significance was accomplished leading up to the November 14 framework for the contract. Bargaining in good faith, the PSC engaged in the process of give-and-take to reach agreement with CUNY. Proposals were offered, demands were withdrawn, and detailed resolutions were reached. CUNY negotiators represented to us that they had the authority to negotiate such agreements. We agreed in good faith to a framework for a settlement, and we expect that framework to be honored.

I ask for your continued support as we move into this final phase of negotiations. Starting February 3, you will find on the union website letters to the Chancellor, the Mayor and the Governor demanding that their representatives come to the table and stay at the table until a fair contract is finalized, and that they honor the November 14 agreement on a conceptual framework. I urge you to take the time to let the other side know how you feel prior to the February 16 negotiating session. Go to [www.psc-cuny.org](http://www.psc-cuny.org) and click on the box that says "Act Now!" With the strength of the membership at our backs, we will remain resolute as we work to bring this round of negotiations to a close.

In solidarity,

Barbara Bowen  
President, PSC