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Human Resources

February 25, 2011

Dear Adjunct Faculty Members;

We are writing to advise you of an important development in the NYSUT election. By Tuesday, February 22, it was becoming apparent to the College that many adjunct faculty had not received mail ballots from the NLRB. The numbers we were hearing prompted the College to reach out to the NLRB that day and inquire whether ballots had indeed been sent to all eligible adjunct faculty who taught in the Spring and the Fall 2010. Although we could not get an immediate response, we did learn by late Wednesday that many Fall 2010 adjuncts had not been sent ballots.

On Thursday, February 24, the NLRB advised that 48 adjunct faculty had not been sent ballots by the NLRB on February 16 and the NLRB was sending those adjuncts ballots by overnight mail. However, the ballot packets being sent were advising adjuncts that ballots still had to be received by March 2. The NLRB was not providing these adjuncts with an overnight return label to insure timely receipt. We also learned that the NLRB had been receiving many calls directly from adjuncts requesting ballots because they had not received one in the original mailing. These individuals' calls were in addition to the 48 adjuncts that the NLRB identified as never having been sent ballots.

In light of the significant number of adjuncts who were getting ballots at the last minute, the College requested that the time to vote be extended in fairness to these employees. The NLRB offered to extend the date to March 10 and the College promptly agreed to the extension. We have been waiting today for confirmation from the NLRB of the extension in writing so we could provide the information to adjunct faculty. We have just learned that NYSUT is refusing to agree to the extension of time until March 10. The most NYSUT is willing to consider is an extension until March 4. The College voiced its strong opposition to limiting the time available to adjunct faculty to receive and return their ballot. There is no harm to an extension until March 10 that the union can identify. The College reiterated its insistence that adjuncts have time to return their ballots and that voting be made available until March 10. We do not believe that adjunct faculty should be barred from participating by the NLRB's mistakes in mailing ballots and NYSUT's unwillingness to permit faculty adequate time to vote.

We again recommend that all adjuncts vote. The union question will be decided by the majority of ballots cast. Even though we are being told that the union is asking people who will not affirm support for NYSUT not to vote, we believe every adjunct should vote. Please get your ballot in the mail as quickly as possible even if you think it will not be received on time. If you have not received a ballot and believe you are eligible you should call the NLRB immediately at 212 264 0300, Stephen Berger at 212 264 6079 or Nicholas Lewis at 212 264 0316.

Barbara Fabé
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