

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STRIKE**

Part-Time-Faculty Association of Columbia College Chicago (P-fac) Overwhelmingly Authorizes a Strike in Response to Bad Faith Bargaining, Union Busting and Degradation of Education

CHICAGO (November 22, 2017) Voting closed in an electronic ballot at 5:00 PM Wednesday, November 22, 2017. Record breaking voter turnout. Among the ballots cast, 86.2% voted in favor of a strike.

"The overwhelming support for this strike is an indication of the severity of the current situation. The College is implementing a climate of fear and intimidation, reflecting a larger national crises for labor. Columbia is emboldened by Trump and ignoring basic labor law by bargaining in bad faith and union busting. They want to break the union, assign courses to the least experienced and cheapest, " said Diana Vallera, president of the Part-Time Faculty at Columbia College (P-fac), the union representing part-time adjuncts at Columbia. "This administration has no value for their part-time faculty or students and has taken steps to erode the union and degrade the quality of education. The founding mission of the College is under seige as the administration lines their pockets at the expense of students."

Mike Persoon of the Law Firm, Despres, Schwartz and Geoghegan Ltd. who sits at the bargaining table states, "The college has continued to commit unfair labor practices and to make bargaining proposals that undo all the gains from the last contract and inidcate that they do not take our demands for job security seriously. We are going to remind them why job security and a fair contract is our top priority and that we will take whatever steps are necessary to acheive them."

Vallera stated that, "the need for collective action is a last resort but a necessary one if we want to save the union, protect faculty rights, and OurColumbia."

P-Fac has joined with Columbia College students to create a coalition called OurColumbia to demand that the College return to a community of inclusion and a student-centered learning environment. P-Fac and Columbia students have organized a STRIKE in response to the College's continued labor violations, bad faith bargaining and degradation of a Columbia College degree.

According to Vallera, "The rising tide in opposition to labor, that the current White House reflects, will be met by resistance. We stand with our brothers and sisters across the nation and around the globe who seek healthy working conditions and fair wages. We stand with our students seeking quality education, a degree that is valuable, and a start to professional life unsaddled by student loan debt." Vallera concluded

P-fac will strike on November 29th and 30th. A press conference will be help on November 29th at 11a.m. with C.J. Hawkins, director of Arise Chicago.

The college submitted a proposal that removes all protections for job security, seniority, a paid sick day and academic freedom. Examples from the College proposal include:

- Allowing administrators and others to teach outside of the bargaining unit
- Language that threatens academic freedom, giving the setting of class "requirements" to the department
- Full discretion for the college to assign courses with no regard for seniority or teaching experience
- No guarantee of more than 1 class per unit member, with no regard for seniority or teaching experience
- College control of the subjects over which we can grieve, including a definition of the entire agreement as being deemed to have covered any and everything that could have been covered, in bargaining, regardless of whether or not the subject appears in the contract
- No shared governance
- Over the course of what is supposed to be negotiations the College has failed to bargain in good faith. In addition, the College is actively implementing proposals it brought to the table.
- The College has provided P-Fac with a Firing List of instructors many of whom have taught successfully for decades and one of whom won the coveted Teaching Excellence Award.
- The proposal removed many of the gains P-fac achieved in the last contract

P-fac demands that the college honor the founding mission of Columbia College and return to a community of inclusion and a student-centered learning environment. We are the “Conscious of Columbia College” and we “**Stand For Students, Not Profits.**”

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