

PSC/CUNY Professional Staff Congress/City University of New York

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January 30, 2024

Dear Chancellor Matos Rodríguez and Board of Trustees Chair Thompson,

We join the Graduate Center PSC chapter executive committee to urge that the search for a new president of the CUNY Graduate Center be conducted openly.

Despite the availability since 2015 of a CUNY policy that permits confidential searches at the request of any finalist for an executive position, we are concerned that in this instance especially, a confidential search will put any new president at a disadvantage in establishing a relationship with the Graduate Center community. As the Graduate Center PSC chapter executive committee has expressed, an open search provides finalists with the opportunity to hear from members of the academic community. That is always a good practice, and never more so than now, when the tensions between the academic community and the previous president must be overcome.

For the sake of academic quality and institutional stability, the Graduate Center presidency can no longer be a revolving door. Finalists for the position may wish to maintain confidentiality to avoid compromising their reputations at their current home institutions. But the CUNY administration should insist first and foremost on keeping faith with its own academic community. Candidates should not be considered as finalists if they are unwilling to be public in their candidacy and to meet with the faculty, students, and staff with whom they will be working if they are selected as the next president.

Sincerely,



James Davis, President
Professional Staff Congress

