

DC 37's CUNY Locals Angered by Pay Delay

Raises, Retro 5 Months Due

By CRYSTAL LEWIS

Thousands of Administrative Assistants, Statisticians and other employees working at the City University of New York who are represented by District Council 37 haven't received the raises and retroactive pay promised under the union contract that was ratified in December.

Staff have not seen their raises reflected in their paychecks, which CUNY attributed to technical problems in its accounting systems, according to the union.

27 Months of 'Retro'

DC 37 reached a deal with the city public university system in November that granted non-pedagogical employees 8.24 percent in raises over a 52-month period. More than 98 percent of members who voted on the contract a month later supported it. The agreement also includes retroactive pay dating back to February 2017 and the state paid-family-leave benefit.

The delay has sparked confusion, and is affecting all of the more-than 10,000 employees who work at CUNY under the banner of Locals 375, 384, 983, 1407, 1597, 2054 and 2627.

"CUNY is dragging its feet," said Local 2627 President Laura Morand, who represents Computer Service Technicians and other Information Technology staff. "My members are dedicated and are fulfilling their part but CUNY's management has not. It's already sad their salaries and longevity are significantly lower than their counterparts in the mayoral agencies."

Union members voiced their frustration at a recent Board of Trustees hearing at LaGuardia Community College. Local 2054 represents College Assistants and Sign Language Interpreters, who are predominantly part-time staff.

'Unacceptable Delay'

"They work an average of 20 hours a week and make \$15 an hour," said the local's president,

Dishunta Meredith. "I do not understand why you cannot pay my members \$312 a year," she said, referring to the salary increase.

DC 37 Executive Director Henry Garrido called the situation "unacceptable."

"There is no excuse for our members, who ratified this contract in December, to not receive their fair and just raises. It is past time for CUNY to hold up to its end of the bargain," he said.

A CUNY spokesman said that the public university system was "working closely with the union to ensure that staff are paid what they are due in the near future," but did not say when the problem was expected to be fixed.



LAURA MORAND: 'CUNY dragging its feet.'



HENRY GARRIDO: 'No excuse' for delay.

