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A recent letter signed by 70 Distinguished Professors at the City University of New York praises CUNY as “the most democratic university in the most democratic city in the country.” A University system this unique, with a historic mission of providing public access to quality higher education requires a leadership structure that embodies its core values and upholds the principles of democracy and equality that the University was built on.

Plenary	Currently, CUNY is led by a group of fifteen political appointees—ten appointed by the governor and five by the New York City mayor—and only one democratically elected student board member; faculty have no vote. The limitations of this Board structure have become increasingly clear: the persecution of Brooklyn College adjunct Kristofer Peterson-Offerton over erroneous charges; the slander of Tony Kushner at the hands of a single board member; the embarrassing silence and indifference of the other board members in these decisions; lack of understanding and regard for academic freedom; tuition hikes that price students out of public education; and the pending hand-in-glove approval of general education reforms that will rob undergraduates of exposure to wider, more diverse areas of study.
Executive Committee	
Steering Committee	
Constitution and Bylaws	
Grants	
Health Issues	The most democratic university in the most democratic city in the country demands a better Board of Trustees—a Board that understands its values and struggles, its diversity of opinions and historic mission.
Media Board	
Outreach	
Student Services	In that spirit, we—the members of the CUNY community who study, teach, and work in its classrooms and halls—demand a restructured Board of Trustees that includes not only outside industry and community leaders but also the wisdom and experience of CUNY’s community. This new Board of Trustees should <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• be composed of a majority of representatives from CUNY students, faculty, staff, and administration;</li><li>• reflect the diversity of community college, senior college, graduate and professional school constituents;</li><li>• provide a balanced perspective from different CUNY campuses, to reflect their individual missions and goals; and</li><li>• guarantee democratic and transparent channels for the election of CUNY board members.</li></ul>

*Endorsed unanimously by the Doctoral Students' Council on May 14, 2011*