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January 22, 2009

Attn: Mr. Daniel H. Polett, Chairman
Board of Trustees
Office of the Secretary
Sullivan Hall – 3 Mezzanine
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Dear Chairman Polett,

To my disappointment, I see that contracts with AFSCME Local 1723 and AFT Local 4531 have still not been settled at Temple University. As you well know, Temple University is viewed by union members and working class people in Philadelphia as "our" university. Temple has always respected and been proud of that tradition.

However, allowing a situation to deteriorate to such a point that you have workers working without a new contract for well over a year is in contrast to the reputation of Temple as a place for working families. I continue to urge you and your staff to work diligently to get all outstanding contracts settled quickly and fairly.

In the meantime, the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO Executive Board has passed the enclosed resolution in which we are calling upon our members to withhold alumni and organizational donations to Temple. It's a sad fact that higher educational institutions seem only to respond to financial incentives, but we will take advantage of that fact to the best extent we can.

As always, I remain committed to helping the University and its employees come to a resolution of differences and to put in place a fair contract for the workers. If you think I can be of any assistance in that regard, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best,

Patrick J. Eiding
President

cc: Dr. Ann Weaver Hart, President



Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO Resolution in Support of Temple Employees

WHEREAS AFSCME Local 1723 has been without a contract at Temple University since October of 2007; and

WHEREAS AFT Local 4531 has been without a contract at Temple University since October of 2008; and

WHEREAS Temple University has shown an unwillingness to respond to calls from the labor movement to move forward and negotiate a fair contract for both unions; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO call upon its members to withhold alumni and organizational donations to Temple University until contracts for both AFSCME Local 1723 and AFT Local 4531 have been settled; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO ask those members who withhold donations to communicate to Temple University the reason for their decision; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to AFSCME Local 1723; AFT Local 4531; and Temple University.