RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York appoint David Himmelstein as Distinguished Professor of Urban Public Health at Hunter College effective March 1, 2017, with compensation of $28,594 per annum in addition to his regular academic salary, subject to financial ability.

EXPLANATION: Professor Himmelstein is recognized nationally and internationally as a health policy expert. He is a scholar of remarkable productivity whose widely-cited and influential work has been published in over 100 journal articles and seven monographs and books. His reviewers point out that he is “a leading policy thinker whose work includes seminal research findings that have changed the debate on health insurance in the United States.” He “is the definition of a Distinguished Professor. Not only has he had an exemplary research career with extensive publications in major journals, he has, more importantly, created (with his collaborators) the database for informed, evidence-based analysis of the U.S. health system,” and “his work represents the pinnacle of rigorous scholarship in health services research.”

Professor Himmelstein’s research with long-time collaborator Professor Stephanie Woolhandler has had a significant impact on health care policy in the United States and abroad. Their study of patients who were refused emergency care because they were uninsured triggered a national debate that eventually led to the passage of the Emergency Treatment and Active Labor Act, which requires hospitals to examine and stabilize patients before transferring them to another institution. Their research on the high administrative costs of medical care and the possible mechanisms to reduce them have entered national health policy debates in the U.S. and elsewhere. They are leading scholars on the effects of for-profit ownership of HMOs, insurance firms and medical providers. Their research on medical bankruptcy, which found that medical bills and illness were common causes of financial insolvency, was cited by President Obama as he worked to pass the Affordable Care Act. Together, Professors Himmelstein and Woolhandler founded and continue to lead the non-profit education and advocacy group Physicians for a National Health Program, which was recently cited in the New England Journal of Medicine as a leading progressive health policy organization that has grown to include more than 20,000 members nationwide and has active chapters in more than 40 cities.

Hunter College and The City University of New York will be well-served by Professor Himmelstein’s appointment as Distinguished Professor.