

Medical College employees approve 2-year agreement

VALHALLA, N.Y. (UPI) — Some 180 research, maintenance and clerical workers at the New York Medical College and its Mental Retardation Institute (MRI) voted overwhelmingly yesterday to approve a new agreement that grants them 8 percent wage increases in each year of a two-year contract.

The agreement that averted a threatened strike was identical to the contract the employees union, District 1199 of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, has with the New York League of Voluntary Hospitals and Homes, union Vice President Steve Frankel said.

Frankel said the pact, retroactive to Aug. 31, does not include any of the givebacks the hospital was seeking.

The hospital had sought to split the union into two units — one for the college and one for the debt-ridden MRI, which provides outpa-

tient care for 6,000 mentally retarded persons in Westchester and six other mid-Hudson region counties. At least five residents of the facility are former Staten Island Developmental Center residents.

Frankel also said the

college, which is affiliated with Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospitals, all owned by the New York Archdiocese, also sought to eliminate previous benefits and provide greater flexibility in hiring temporary workers.