

November 11, 2022

Dr. Tania Tetlow, President  
Dr. Dennis Jacobs, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Fordham University

Dear President Tetlow and Provost Jacobs:

We, the undersigned members of the faculty of the Department of Philosophy, wish to express our support for the members of Fordham Faculty United in their efforts to renegotiate their Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) this year. Specifically, we support their demands for higher compensation, a health benefit for adjunct faculty, and pay parity across all the schools of Fordham University.

We depend on lecturers, postdoctoral teaching fellows, and adjunct faculty to teach the bulk of the courses in our department, and without them, our department would simply not be able to function. Lecturers, postdocs, and adjuncts teach a high percentage of core courses offered in philosophy. Accordingly, we recognize how important the work of this faculty is.

We applaud the University's significant investment in student support—one example of this being the newly created Advising Center—but we fail to understand why the University cannot make a similar financial commitment to supporting unionized faculty. We therefore stand in solidarity with them in the CBA negotiation process.

We believe that Fordham should make a good faith effort to live up to its reputation as a prestigious Catholic university and practice its Jesuit values of promoting social justice and care for all persons. In its attempts to address structural injustice, Fordham should begin at home.

In solidarity,

Brian E. Johnson, Associate professor  
John van Buren, Professor  
Lauren Kopajtic, Assistant Professor  
Nicholas Smyth, Assistant Professor  
Samir Haddad, Associate Professor  
Jeff Flynn, Associate Professor  
Bligh Somma, Assistant Professor  
Amy Seymour, Assistant Professor