

10/20/22

Tania Tetlow, J.D., 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 English, write to articulate our strong 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.

Like other departments at Fordham that have expressed support for our unionized faculty, English has become highly dependent on part-time faculty to teach some of our most essential and core courses due to the lack of full-time faculty members. In Fall 2022, for instance, at Lincoln Center, 64% of our first-year writing courses (Comp I and Comp II) were taught by part-time NTT faculty; another 16% were taught by temporary full-time lecturers promoted from the ranks of our existing part-time adjuncts. At Rose Hill, similarly, 65% of first year writing courses are being taught by PT NTT instructors, and nearly 20% more by temporarily promoted part-timers. From instructors who have been teaching on our campuses for decades, to the newest instructors hired to help our university meet the needs of unusually large entering classes and diversifying demographics, our enormous staff of part-time instructors carries an inordinate load of the undergraduate teaching responsibilities in our department

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,

Anne Fernald, Professor of English

Crystal Colombini, Associate Professor of English, Director of the Writing Program and the Writing Center

Frank Boyle, Associate Professor of English

Maria Farland, Associate Professor of English

James Kim, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature

Corey McEleney, Associate Professor of English and Co-Director of the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program

Thomas O'Donnell, Associate Professor of English

Catherine Chaput, Professor of English and Kavanagh Chair of Rhetoric

Andrew Albin, Associate Professor of English and Medieval Studies

Cristiana Sogno, Associate Professor in the English department

Suzanne Yeager, Professor of English and Undergraduate Director of Medieval Studies

Glenn Hendler, Professor of English and American Studies

Sarah Gambito, Professor of English, Director of Creative Writing

Susan Greenfield, Professor of English

Julie Chun Kim, Associate Professor of English

Heather Dubrow, John D Boyd SJ Chair in Poetic Imagination

Mary Bly, Professor of English

Sarah Zimmerman, Professor of English

Shonni Enelow, Professor of English

Jordan Alexander Stein, Professor of English and Comparative Literature

Sasha Panaram, Assistant Professor of English

Anne G. Hoffman, Professor of English and Comparative Literature

John Bugg, Professor of English