

November 22, 2022

Tania Tetlow, J.D., President
Dr. Dennis Jacobs, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear President Tetlow and Provost Jacobs:

All tenured non-administrative faculty members of the Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education are united in expressing our support for Fordham Faculty United (FFU) members' efforts to renegotiate their Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) this year. Like our colleagues from the departments of English, Modern Languages, and Sociology and Anthropology, we support FFU's demands for higher compensation, a health benefit for adjunct faculty, and pay parity across all the schools of Fordham University.

These are our colleagues. We teach the same students. We depend on non-tenure line faculty to teach our courses, including core courses. In our School, in Spring 2023, more than one-third of our courses are being taught by non-tenure line faculty. When they do so, they demonstrate the same high standards of Fordham education shared by all of us. 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 Fordham Faculty United members 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,

Colt Anderson, Professor
Tom Beaudoin, Professor
Kirk Bingaman, Professor
Lisa Cataldo, Associate Professor
Harold (Bud) Horell, Associate Professor
Shannon McAlister, Associate Professor
MaryBeth Werdel, Associate Professor