

October 3, 2022

Dr. Tanya 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 Modern Languages and Literatures, 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 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. In the 2021-22 academic year, lecturers and adjuncts taught 76.5% of the courses offered by MLL (as compared to the FAS average of 66.8%). As one of the departments with the highest number of contingent professors in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, we recognize how important the work of lecturers and adjunct 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,

Carl Fischer, Chair and Associate Professor of Spanish
Andrew H. Clark, Professor of French and Comparative Literature
Audrey Evrard, Associate Professor of French
Ronald S. Méndez-Clark, Associate Professor of Latin American Literature
Javier Jiménez Belmonte, Professor of Spanish
Francesca Parmeggiani, Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature
Yiju Huang, Associate Professor of Chinese
Cynthia Vich, Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature
Joseph Perricone, Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature
Arnaldo Cruz-Malave, Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature
Carey Kasten, Associate Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature
Rafael Lamas, Professor of Spanish
Brian J. Reilly, Associate Professor of French
Lise Schreier, Professor of French and Comparative Literature

Alessandro Polcri, Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature

Britta Ingebretson, Assistant Professor of Linguistics and Chinese

Susanna Barsella, Professor of Italian, Medieval Studies and Comparative Literature

Isaie Dougnon, Associate Professor of French and Francophone Humanitarian Studies

Dongxian Jiang, Assistant Professor of Chinese Studies