



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Steven J. Franks
Professor and Chair
Department of Biology

November 30, 2022

Dennis Jacobs, Provost
Tania Tetlow, President
Fordham University

Dear President Tetlow and Provost Jacobs,

Along with many other departments at Fordham, the undersigned tenure-line members of the Department of Biological Sciences at Fordham University strongly support the efforts of the Fordham Faculty United (FFU) members to renegotiate their Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) this year to obtain fair pay and benefits.

Our non-tenure line colleagues play a central role in the functioning of our department and specifically in our ability to educate our students. Note that in spring 2023, Biology will offer 56 undergraduate sections. Over half of these sections, and well over half of the enrolled students, will be taught by non-tenure line faculty. Clearly, a strike by the non-tenure line faculty would be devastating for our department. Also, now that state law requires advertising salary ranges, it will become increasingly difficult to obtain and retain non-tenure line faculty as we compete with other institutions that offer better compensation. This will be disruptive and reduce the quality of education we provide for our students.

If Fordham truly wishes to “educate for justice” and promote Jesuit values, we should start with our own institution and provide fair and equitable compensation to our valued and highly deserving non-tenure line faculty. We urge the administration to engage in good-faith negotiations with the union and reach an acceptable agreement as soon as possible.

In solidarity with FFU,

Steven J. Franks, Professor and Chair
Jason Munshi-South, Professor
JD Lewis, Professor
Berish Rubin, Professor
John D Wehr, Professor
Evon R. Hekkala, Associate Professor