

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Dear President Tetlow and Provost Jacobs,

We, the tenure-line members of the Department of Communication and Media Studies (CMS), write to express our strong support for Fordham Faculty United (FFU) members' efforts to renegotiate their Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) this year. In accord with other departments (English, Natural Sciences, Modern Languages, Sociology and Anthropology to name a few), 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 who teach our students, and upon whom we depend to deliver our curriculum, including Core courses and those required for our majors. CMS is among the largest undergraduate departments at Fordham, and based on statistics compiled by our own Office of Institutional Research, adjunct faculty were responsible for approximately 50% of the classes we offered over the past five years. In the past two years, this percentage has climbed to nearly 60% in CMS. These colleagues are therefore teaching the majority of course content as well as providing *cura personalis* to our many hundreds of declared majors and minors. Their work is not only essential to our goals as a department but to Fordham's mission as a University as well.

We applaud the University's significant recent investments in student support, but struggle to understand why a similar financial commitment to supporting our unionized faculty is not being made. We believe 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 must begin at home.

In solidarity,

The Department of Communication and Media Studies