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Mark D. Levine, Borough President

December 7, 2022

Tania Tetlow  
University President  
Fordham University  
Office of the President  
441 East Fordham Road  
Bronx, NY 10458

Dear President Tetlow,

I write to you in solidarity with the more than 600 non-tenured and non-tenure-track faculty at Fordham University who are fighting for a fair contract that provides a wage increase consistent with the rapid cost of living, meaningful health benefits, and equitable per-course pay for classes taught across Fordham's schools. It is disappointing to hear that after more than 20 bargaining sessions, the Fordham administration has yet to make a good-faith offer to the faculty who are the backbone of the university.

Teaching more than 1,400 courses each year, contingent, non-tenure-track faculty are integral to Fordham's undergraduate and graduate schools. Despite how invaluable they are, part-time faculty only make an average of \$18,800 annually, and full-time salaries begin at \$42,000, meaning many faculty work other jobs just to make ends meet. In total, these faculty comprise about 3% of the university's budget. With an endowment of more than \$1.1 billion, it is disingenuous to posit that Fordham cannot afford to pay faculty a livable wage, improve health benefits, and standardize per-course pay.

Peer universities in New York City are currently bargaining with their faculty unions and have offered per-course pay above what the Fordham administration has proposed. I urge you to augment your offer and put forward an agreement that honors the real cost of living challenges that faculty members face.

I believe that the Fordham Faculty United's demands are just and stand with these faculty members in their fight for a fair contract. I offer this statement of support in the hope that it will help elicit good-faith negotiations

Sincerely,

Mark Levine  
Manhattan Borough President