

Tania Tetlow, J.D., 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 Theatre Program, within the Department of Theatre and Visual Arts, write to articulate our strong support for the members of Fordham Faculty United (FFU) 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.

Like other departments at Fordham that have expressed support for our unionized faculty, Fordham Theatre must depend on non-tenure and part-time faculty to teach some of our most essential and core courses due to the lack of full-time faculty members. In Fall 2022, part-time faculty teach foundational courses such as Acting I, Acting II, Acting III, Intro to Directing, Page to Stage, Movement, and Vocal Technique. We rely heavily on specialized expertise of our part-time faculty, who are wholly committed to our students to teach our advanced level design courses in every discipline such as Scenic Design, Costume Design, Lighting Design, Sound Design, Projection Design, Stage Management, Production Management, and Producing through a Social Justice Lens. Renowned actors and theater makers teach at Fordham as part-time faculty because they are passionate about our students, teaching specialized courses, such as Acting Shakespeare, Acting for the Camera, Senior Audition, Design Showcase, and Creating a Character. We have long-standing committed lecturers and part-time faculty who have taught in our program for decades, and we also have brought on new contingent faculty who bring innovation and a fresh, creative approach to teaching and who mirror the wide ranging demographics of our student body. The part-time faculty represent the finest artists in the competitive New York Theatre industry, and they carry an inordinate load of undergraduate teaching responsibilities within our program.

We too 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 believe that the FFU's

demands are fair and reasonable. 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,

May Adrales, Director of the Theatre Program, Assistant Professor of Theatre

Matthew Maguire, Professor of Theatre

Chad McArver, Associate Professor of Design