

12/20/2022

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 Department of Art History and Music, write to articulate our strong 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.

Like other departments at Fordham, our department depends heavily on our part-time and NTT faculty members. In our fine arts core courses, which serve to introduce the broader student populations to our disciplines and programs—and which often attract our majors and minors—this is especially true. Between Fall 2020 and Spring 2022 anywhere from 59% to over 80% of our introductory classes (including both Art History and Music) were taught by NTT instructors. In our upper level classes as well, we rely on NTT faculty who have helped make the department what it is today. 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,

Matthew Gelbart, associate professor and chair  
Maria Ruvoldt, associate professor and associate chair  
Caitlin Meehye Beach, assistant professor  
Eric Bianchi, associate professor  
Asato Ikeda, associate professor  
Nathan Lincoln-DeCusatis, associate professor  
Daniel Ott, associate professor  
Nina Rowe, professor