

STATEMENT TO THE CUNY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, 22 October 2018

Baruch College

My name is Hester Eisenstein, and I am a Professor of Sociology at Queens College and the Graduate Center.

Before coming to CUNY in 1996, I have taught at Yale, Barnard, and the State University of New York at Buffalo, and I also served as a femocrat in the state government of New South Wales.

Of all these, CUNY is the institution that is least faithful to its mission, because of the regime of artificial austerity that has been imposed on the staff, faculty and students by the budgets of the last few decades.

You know that CUNY is an economic engine for the city of New York, and that CUNY graduates are the backbone of the city's economy, both public and private.

If I were a CUNY Trustee, I would do everything in my power to make sure that our students, who struggle with economic deprivation, balancing paid work, family, and schoolwork, have the best of everything to ensure their success. This extends from chalk in the classroom to books in the library to adequate systems of heat and ventilation, not to mention staff and faculty salaries.

I call on you as trustees to oppose austerity for CUNY. Take a public stand for a contract that is fully funded, includes real raises for all, and increases adjunct pay to \$7K per course.

I also call on you to terminate the mysterious and unpublicized contract that Baruch has signed with the Central Intelligence Agency, via a Memorandum of Understanding that did not get submitted to the Faculty Senate.

I appreciate the opportunity to address this body and I hope you will take our words to heart.

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