

**Testimony of Amy Greenberg, Adjunct Lecturer
Brooklyn College
Before the Board of Trustees at
Queens Public Hearing**

April 19, 2017

Adjuncts should receive the same pay as full-time staff. We do the same work and in many cases, do the work more effectively. We often teach sections with more students than our full-time counterparts. As a teacher, professional developer with the UFT Teacher Center, and a Literacy Coach for over 36 years with the Department of Education, I believe that I am infinitely more qualified to teach education methodology courses than those who have never taught in the system. I have often found myself called a “practitioner” in a derogatory manner by certain full-time staff and there is an assumption that I am not knowledgeable in theory and only in practice, an assumption that is false. I have consistently kept up with best practices and current research and am fully capable of engaging in academic research and writing. I am proud to be considered an effective practitioner. It was **my** choice to devote my career to working with students both at the middle and high school levels, as well as at the college level. I think I speak for many adjuncts when I say that we always put our students first, not research. Our students are our clients and they deserve our full attention. I also believe that if you look at student feedback, our adjuncts often get the highest ratings from the students.

I also resent the lack of job security with which adjuncts have to deal on a semester basis. For example, if full-time staff members decide they want to teach a course that we have been teaching for years, it is taken away from us and we have to scramble around for work. Often

when the department discovers that people without teaching experience cannot effectively teach methodology courses, we get called in again to correct the situation and fill in the gaps.

Additionally, I am fortunate that I have a place to hang my hat, but many of my fellow adjuncts have no office space or places to conduct office hours for their students.

Adjuncts contribute richly to our teaching staff and, in fact, teach more classes than full-time staff. Universities need us to function and should compensate us appropriately both in pay and with the respect we deserve for our knowledge and skills.