

**Testimony of Arlene Geiger, Adjunct Lecturer**  
**Before the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York**  
**Concerning the University Budget Request for FY 2015-2016 as it Relates to**  
**the PSC-CUNY Collective Bargaining Agreement**  
**(Calendar Item 3.F.)**  
***24 November, 2014***

I am speaking on Item 3F, CUNY's Budget Request, and the need for a budget that includes funding to create professional positions for adjuncts and support contractual raises for adjuncts

My name is Arlene Geiger. I am one of over ten thousand adjunct faculty members who teach over half of the classes at CUNY. I am an Economist and have taught at John Jay College continuously since 1992. Currently I teach Economics of the Public Sector and Introduction to Economics. I have also taught Macro and International Economics.

I teach 3 courses each semester and 1 in the summer, a total of 7 courses per year. After over 20 years teaching as an adjunct at CUNY, my annual gross pay is \$27,841. Now, and for many years, this has been my sole or primary source of income. Do you really believe that adjunct faculty are fairly compensated for the work we do?

I am paid for 10 hours each week to teach 3 courses. That's 3 classroom hours for each course totaling 9 hours plus only 1 office hour. A total of 10 paid hours weekly. I actually work an average of 35 hours per week, not 10! Let me explain.

Before I step into the classroom I've spend many weeks constructing a syllabus, that is organizing the course, finding a text and other reading materials. As the semesters go by I spend time updating them. For the Introduction to Economics course that I have taught many years, I wrote my lectures up and posted them on blackboard instead of assigning a text book. This was to reduce book expenses for my students and make it more likely that they will read the material.

Both sections of my Introductory classes have 36 students which makes it difficult to sufficiently attend to their needs, especially since many of them are underprepared for college work. While my Economics of the Public Sector course has fewer students, I meet with each student several times over the semester to go over their presentations.

In addition to classroom teaching, I typically meet with students for 2 ½ hours each week outside the classroom, referred to as office hours. Then, there are also many hours spent preparing lessons, exercises, online quizzes, homework assignments, study guides and of course endless grading. If I added up the hours that I actually spend teaching 3 courses, it would total 35 hours per week. However, I am paid for only for 10 of those hours each week.

In conclusion, I suggest that adjunct faculty need much more than a modest percentage increase in pay for the contribution we make to our student's education. A more realistic reflection of the office hours we actually work as well as a substantial increase in our hourly pay is essential and fair. Therefore, I urge you to put aside money to pay adjunct faculty for additional office hours and to pay adjunct faculty substantially more per hour. Thank you.