

I submitted my testimony earlier (see below). This note is just my impression from today's hearing. It seems that CUNY leadership relies on college presidents and do not control them. CUNY representatives were saying the right things but what has been done in colleges was wrong. It seems that all grievances were about colleges, but college presidents were not present.

If college presidents are allowed do not answer to appeals and fire people based on false reasons (in my case, insufficient enrolment, which was not true), then there is nothing one can do. If there are laws regulating firing in public institutions, then, as I see it, the only way is to sue the colleges and make them to pay damages. Only in this case they will start acting responsibly.

Prof. Mark Edelman's (mark.edelman@bcc.cuny.edu) testimony. 11/11/2020

This is just a chronological sequence of events:

1. May 11: I sent to the President a letter of appeal on non-promotion (the third time) from the adjunct assistant professor rank to the adjunct associate professor rank (I'm a full professor at Yeshiva University).

The letter has never been answered.

2. Sometime during the Summer, I was assigned a 6-hour course to teach during the Fall.
3. On June 26, after teaching at BCC for 11 consecutive semesters (5.5 years), I received a non-reappointment letter with no explanations. Just 5 lines: you are fired, "we wish you success" from Ms. Clark.
4. On June 26 I wrote a letter to the president, presenting myself and asking to reconsider the decision to fire me.
5. July 23: I received a reply to my June 26 letter to the President written by Ms. Fiore. She wrote that the President values my contribution to BCC but the only reasons I've been fired were "**Covid-19 pandemic and enrollment numbers**".
6. July 27 - July 30: I took and passed an on-line Blackboard course (have never been reimbursed); obtained CUNY Blackboard certificate.
7. August 21 – there were more than 20 students signed-up for the course assigned to me. This day the chair of the Math. & Comp. Science department informed me that he was told to hire somebody else to teach my course because I can't be hired.
8. Nov. 9: I've been ready teach during the Spring, but HR is objecting: "The reason (from HR) is the following: an instructor who received a non-reappointment letter cannot be rehired until two semesters (one academic year) have passed. At that point, you can be considered a "new hire.""

Sincerely,

-Mark Edelman