

## CUNY Board of Trustees Public Hearing

October 22, 2018

Ruth Wangerin, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Lehman College

Good afternoon Chancellor Rabinowitz, Chairperson Thompson, and CUNY Trustees. Thank you for devoting so much of your time to our fair University.

I'm Ruth Wangerin, an experienced and published anthropologist now teaching at Lehman College. And guess what? I'm not paid what I'm worth. In fact, according to one colleague, I'm earning less now (corrected for inflation) than when I was a grad student just learning to teach.

The Modern Language Association recommends a nationwide minimum compensation of \$10,900 for a 3-credit semester course. You ought to be grateful that we're only asking a \$7,000 minimum. That's a saving of over \$3,000 per course.

Following a review of best practices in various institutions, the MLA recommends minimum compensation of \$10,900 for a standard 3-credit-hour semester course or \$7,200 for a standard 3-credit-hour quarter or trimester course. These recommendations are based on the assumption of a full-time load of 3 courses per semester (6 per year) or 3 courses per quarter or trimester (9 per year); annual full-time equivalent is thus in the range of the MLA's recommended full-time salary for entry-level instructors.

May 2018

<https://www.mla.org/Resources/Research/Surveys-Reports-and-Other-Documents/Staffing-Salaries-and-Other-Professional-Issues/MLA-Recommendation-on-Minimum-Per-Course-Compensation-for-Part-Time-Faculty-Members>

I'm here with a delegation from Lehman College. We want to tell you that the Lehman faculty of all ranks, full-time and part-time, are working together now. We're adopting the principle of all for one and one for all. I think you can see that from the 220 names on the petition that my colleague has presented.

It's just a matter of time. We're college professors, so don't think we don't know what's going on, why there is austerity, why people who don't need it get tax breaks and people who do need it get leaky ceilings and underpaid professors.

And when college professors know the score, it's not long before the smart young people in their charge start to know the score, too. In fact, I've yet to meet a tuition-paying student who thinks it's OK that The Greatest Urban University in the World is being held together with duct tape and rubber bands.

**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 pay for adjunct faculty to a minimum of 7K per course.**

And if in the meantime, you'd like to do something for faculty and staff morale without having to spend any money, how about making haste to bring CUNY into the NYS Paid Family Leave insurance program? Other New York workers are getting it and we want it, too.

Thank you.