

Testimony: Board of Trustees for the People Meeting 6/26/2020

My name is Adraenne Bowe. I am a Nurse Practitioner with 50 years of experience, and have been working as a Non-Teaching Adjunct in the Wellness Center Student Health Service at the Graduate Center since April, 2018 in the position of Health Education Supervisor. Prior to 4/18, I worked as Director of Health Service/Nurse Practitioner at the Student Health Service, which was a fully functioning primary care service for students. In 2018, this clinical service was discontinued because of austerity cuts and I was offered my current position instead, solely to provide health education and information, 15 hours per week. The "Student Health Service" as it is still called, although no longer providing clinical care, does provide health information in various formats, including individual consultations for students, online written information, presentations and events. During my years at the GC, I have been the one and only health care provider, regardless of my position. I have had one assistant, a Health Education Coordinator, in a Grad B 7.5 hour per week position. Otherwise, there is no health care available to students at the Graduate Center. I have enjoyed my work, despite, since 4/18, being unable to utilize my clinical skills and provide the definitive health care that students do need, whether insured or uninsured.

Now, during this pandemic, I have received word from my concerned and supportive supervisors that after 8/25/20 my position will be eliminated – because of budget cuts. It is almost inconceivable that, at this particular time, the one and only health care position in the school would be eliminated. The salary is small, so how much is gained? Above all, it is unacceptable that any positions be eliminated. C.U.N.Y. is, after all, an educational institution, yet ignorance and callous disregard for basic human rights – for health care, for working people – seems to prevail.