Nov 18, 2022

Dear Members of the CUNY Board of Trustees,

My name is Jack Kenigsberg, a non-teaching adjunct and Acting Coordinator of the Rockowitz Writing Center at Hunter College.

I am writing today to testify about an issue that inhibits my ability to do my job well and, therefore, to best serve the students at Hunter. Both I and the writing center's Acting Associate Coordinator are halfway through our **fourth year** as interim and part-time administrators of a busy student success center. We are two contingent people trying to do the work of three full timers who have since retired.

Only a few short years ago, the Rockowitz Writing Center was directed by a HEO, coordinated by a HEA, and supported by a COA. They gave the writing center over 100 hours a week of administrative oversight. Today, with two part-time administrators and a couple of college assistants, we barely have 70 hours a week of administrative oversight, which has forced us to turn away potential tutors who were qualified for the position simply because we don't have the capacity to supervise too large of a staff. Our tutoring staff has shrunk from nearly 40 people working over 250 hours per week to a staff of 25 who tutor only 160 hours per week. Every week, that's at least 90 students we cannot help. This semester, that's over a thousand tutoring sessions we cannot conduct.

The Board of Trustees can make a real difference. My writing center does not yet have full time leadership because, quite frankly, it is cheaper to hire two NTAs than two people in the HEO series. You can change that financial calculation. I implore you to make increasing academic support like writing centers a priority for next year's budget. Give the colleges the money they need to hire enough managers and staff who can help our students succeed. The more successful students are in their classes, the more likely CUNY will be to retain them. Please help us help our students.

Thank you,
Jack Kenigsberg
Acting Coordinator
Rockowitz Writing Center
Hunter College