

**Testimony of Lynne Turner**  
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**PSC-CUNY Officer for Part-time Personnel**  
**CUNY Board of Trustees Hearing at LaGuardia Community College**  
**December 5, 2022**

At the October Board of Trustees, I urged that you set your sights high and put forward a budget request commensurate with the “Greatest Urban University in the World; a request capable of breaking the vicious cycle of under-enrollment, class cancellations, and layoffs towards the realization of the promise of the fully funded equitable university that CUNY students, workers and communities need and deserve. I was happy to see that a robust request was advanced and call upon you to make it more ambitious and equitable. A couple of brief comments towards that end.

As a Doctoral Candidate in Sociology at the Graduate Center, I was happy to see the line item request for Doctoral Student Fellowships and Stipends, Doctoral Program support and the hiring of diverse, research focused tenure track faculty. However, I did not see explicit reference to the provision of robust full funding packages to all doctoral students that want it. Approximately one third of our doctoral students are tuition-only through a two-tiered funding system in which they receive no guaranteed health insurance and must instead cobble together funding and health insurance on a semester by semester basis through teaching adjunct, non-teaching adjunct positions and contingent fellowships while still expected to be full time PhD students and make timely progress towards degrees. Let’s provide full and fair funding for all of our PhD students.

I was happy to see the crucial emphasis upon expanding support for student retention and enrollment, and increased hiring of student advisors. Let’s additionally provide our students with reduced class sizes beneficial to inspired teaching and learning, and ensure that the adjunct faculty teaching the majority of courses have secure employment, earn fair compensation, and have priority opportunity to secure full-time positions. And make CUNY Free again.

And as I said in October, put forward the ample budget that CUNY needs and then fight for it. Make these more than talking points. They must be and remain the urgently necessary reality. Go out and fight for it. We will be fighting for it!