

**Remote Statement to the CUNY Board of Trustees on Monday December 5, 2022 at
LaGuardia Community College, CUNY**

Good afternoon

My name is Remi Alapo, I have been an adjunct at the Borough of Manhattan Community College BMCC for the past six years and an adjunct at York College for the past 4 years. While I love to “Wear Red for Higher Ed” and a member of faculty at CUNY, it is important to point out I am a current homeless adjunct who recently lost her home. After our eviction by City Marshals this past summer, my elderly mum and I spent part of the summer and the fall living in several temporary locations around the city, hauling our belonging in and out of storage and scouting all over the city in search of affordable accommodation. The long wait with city agencies trying to secure services and affordable housing has forced us to rent an apt outside of our budget rent at an astronomical amount.

The cost of living has risen dramatically in New York City and almost unbearable for many especially for low income brown and black students and for many of our low wage earner adjunct colleagues. It is a fact that many adjuncts strive religiously with the main aim of providing the best education for our students. With a low CUNY adjunct per course wage and overlooking the plight of adjuncts working paycheck to paycheck means the average adjunct faculty running around the city between campuses to try to teach courses at various institutions to try to make ends meet. The time spent running around campuses in an attempt to make a combined adjunct living wage, can be productively utilized on one CUNY campus as a F/T faculty where one can contribute productively to the average CUNY student’s current progress and future success.

I urge The CUNY Board of Trustees to demand FULL FUNDING from the state in order to provide a living wage, decent working conditions, improve infrastructure needs, and hire adjuncts into full time positions, to provide a safe and healthy environment conducive to teaching needs of adjuncts and the learning needs of our students. I also urge the trustees to consider a higher pay for CUNY Adjuncts by putting into consideration the post Covid pandemic cost of living in NYC which has made the basic grocery item a luxury and housing not affordable.

I urge the CUNY Board of Trustees to consider increasing the Adjunct pay rate to \$10k [or more] per course keeping in mind the cost of inflation and sky rocketing prices of the most basic amenities so that the average adjunct faculty like myself (and many others) can live a little bit above the poverty level in New York City! The living wage compared to standards of living in New York City needs to be examined critically and considered as an important item on the agenda of the CUNY Board of Trustees.

I know my story is similar to many adjunct faculty who continuously put in so much time and effort making an impact in the lives of their students both in and outside of the classroom. “I call on you as trustees of the City University of New York to urge you to “take a public stand for a contract that is fully funded”. I thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,
OLUREMI ALAPO
Oluremi “Remi” Alapo