

Testimony for Board of Trustees Hearing  
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My name is Stuart Davis and I am an Assistant Professor of Communication Studies and the Acting Chapter Chair at Baruch College. I am here to call upon the Board of Trustees to take action and provide more funding for CUNY colleges to hire more full-time faculty and instructional staff. Since beginning to work at CUNY six years ago I have continually borne witness to the ways that lack of support has created serious impediments to CUNY students (including many first-generation students) as they attempt to navigate the complexities of college. This has been especially a problem amid an era marked by the defunding public education and by an epidemiological and social crisis on the magnitude not seen in our lifetime. Providing more full-time teaching and staff positions is the only way to stem this crisis.

As chapter chair I have witnessed academic advisors report that their workload has tripled in the past few years as those who leave or retire are not replaced. I have witnessed faculty's class sizes go from 28 to 45 to 75 over the course of a few years. I've seen part-time faculty being "encouraged" to take on more extensive roles in advising students on top of their already undercompensated labor. We need more funded positions with manageable workload to address this crisis.

Since taking over as chapter chair, I have continually asked Baruch President David Wu how to help fix this lack of full-time positions. He always says, "It isn't my decision. Ask CUNY Central and the Board of Trustees". So now I am asking you, the Board of Trustees, Where is the money?

Where is the money?