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Board of Trustees  
City University of New York

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To the honorable members of the Board of Trustees,

My name is David Gerwin, and I am a Professor at Queens College where I chair the department of Secondary Education and Youth Services. I am, of course, speaking in my personal capacity and not for the college.

I am here to tell you about the impossible, contradictory, and frankly destructive mandates issued by CUNY Central in February. CUNY Central ordered a freeze on all hiring, ordered a 15-20% cut in the adjunct budget, AND wants our department to do our share to raise enrollment.

Obviously, this is an impossible mandate. My department has 6 approved searches, each needed more desperately than the last. Collectively, (at six courses a year for tenure track faculty and eight for lecturers) they account for forty courses in next year's schedule. At \$6,000 per adjunct taught course, they replace \$240,000 of adjunct instruction. But at this point many of them may never be hired. Every single one is undergoing review.

Simultaneously, CUNY Central has ordered cuts of 15%-20% in my adjunct budget. This reduction is not due to low enrollment in my department. And it has real limitations. Student teachers require supervision. The undergraduate educational foundations courses are "W" courses, writing intensive courses capped at 25. It is 2023, not 1966. There are no corners to cut. If I cannot successfully conclude my six searches with hires, and I cannot hire adjuncts to teach those courses, I will not have a schedule I will have Swiss Cheese.

And what will happen to students in my department? They will have no courses. They will have to go elsewhere, find other majors for graduation, or wait a year. So my registration will plummet. And because my department graduates and recommends for certification desperately needed middle and high school public school teachers, these delays will hurt the local schools where Queens College is trying to recruit. Governor Hochul can then point at Queens College and say, "Look, their registration is dropping, why fund them?"

Freezing our searches and preventing us from hiring, while cutting the adjunct budget, shreds the schedule. Instead of increasing enrollment, you are pointing our colleges towards a death spiral.