

To: CUNY Board of Trustees
Subject: Testimony, Board of Trustees Hearing, New York City Tech
Date: March 20, 2023
From: Holly Clarke, Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Public Management, John Jay College
of Criminal Justice

Good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Holly Clarke and I've been an Adjunct Lecturer at John Jay College of Criminal Justice for more than 25 years.

The decision to recommend cuts to the adjunct budget is short-sighted and unwise. The very students the University is trying to attract and retain will be negatively impacted. Cutting the adjunct budget means reducing course offerings. This means less choice for students and fewer options for students to complete their degree requirements. It also means more students will be packed into the remaining courses. Our students need smaller not larger classes. Just as eliminating the Communication and Theater Arts department at John Jay did, it makes CUNY less attractive.

Further, cutting the adjunct budget means laying off seasoned faculty (adjunct faculty) who are valued by their students, their departments and their colleges. The mandated reductions are large. Many of the adjunct faculty, who will lose courses and income or be laid-off altogether (likely 500 to 1,000 faculty), have taught for years in their departments. They have experience with our CUNY students and often teach introductory and lower level courses—courses that are key to student retention. They are not disposable or easily replaceable. This lack of thought regarding the contribution adjunct faculty make to every major across CUNY and their value in student retention is a glaring oversight.

I have taught at John Jay College of Criminal Justice since the late 1980s – and will likely lose my position. My department and CUNY will lose a very experienced and effective teacher committed to student success. Is this the best way to retain students and build enrollment?