

**CUNY Board of Trustees Hearing at City Tech, Brooklyn Borough on March 20, 2023.**

**I support a #NewDeal4CUNY campaign for a Fair Contract for #APeoplesCUNY!  
No Cuts!, and No Tuition Hike!**

Social inequality is one of the biggest hindrances to any country's social development according to the United Nations Sustainable Goals (SDGs). Social inequality refers to the uneven resource distribution, mostly perpetrated by basing rewards on various social perspectives including those of class, status, religion, race, and income levels that prevent certain segments of the society not to advance as others. SDG # 3 is on Good Health and Well-Being, SDG #4 specifically mentions Education as a priority, and SDG #10 is on Reduced Inequalities – all these should be considered human rights!

Some of these social inequalities in education affect many of our CUNY students who on a regular basis must work two or three jobs to support their families and struggle to pay tuition, purchase books, and pay for mental health support needed. Sometimes, their socio-economic, emotional well-being psychological mindset makes it very difficult to participate in extracurricular activities and enrichment programs to nurture themselves while striving to pursue their education.

Besides, the Covid 19 pandemic has further contributed to the disparities in social inequality in higher education. Disparities from the Covid-19 pandemic have affected the education system and how this plays a role in reinforcing social equality, especially for many adjunct faculty, and CUNY students who have lost their families, and livelihoods, grappling with new mental and emotional challenges and trying to adjust back to the socio-economic reality of things in New York City where the prices of basic social amenities such as food and housing have skyrocketed in the last 3 years since the start of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Most importantly, I urge the CUNY Board of Trustees to halt immediately the call for a CUNY tuition hike so that our students can deserve the best quality and most affordable education in New York State! Provide enough program support and increase the number of mental health counselors and academic advisors at each campus or compensate adjuncts who spend time emotionally and mentally supporting their students outside of their office hour time. The Social Inequality in Higher Education is a human rights issue and not in compliance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals #3, 4, and 10!

To enhance the quality of student experience and increase student retention and graduation rates, CUNY must substantially increase the number of full-time faculty and better compensate its adjunct faculty. The New Deal for CUNY would lift the ratio of full-time faculty to undergraduate students and close the equity gap between full-time and part-time salaries, prorated per course. The CUNY Board of Trustees has the power to make the "New Deal 4 CUNY" a priority agenda and demand fixing the higher education system in New York City by 1] establishing a faculty-to-student ratio, 2] enhancing the ratio of mental health counselors and academic advisors, and 3] eliminate tuition and fees.

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Thank you kindly for your attention. I am available for further comments on the #NewDeal4CUNY.

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