

Possible framework for board testimony

Testifying before the CUNY Board of Trustees is a great opportunity to take your personal, and our collective, concerns directly to the leaders of the University.

Here is what we hope is a useful template to consider when you shape your 3 minute testimony:

- Introduction—say who you are—Name, Campus, Title, Area of work
- Legitimization—Why your testimony is well-informed (years of experience, role at CUNY, relevant expertise)
- Problem—This is likely the longest part of the testimony. Moving from the general (example: lack of funding/noncompetitive pay/etc.) to the specific (an example/anecdote). Personal, detailed stories are great and effective. Bringing in the experience of students is often a great thing to do.
- Solution (Example: The Board must advocate aggressively for full funding /or/ the board must support our contract demands and work win a budget that will fund them)

It's a good idea to time yourself, so that you know you can deliver your testimony in 3 minutes, which goes by faster than you think!

CUNY has a [DropBox where testimony can be uploaded](#). If you send your testimony to PSC Comms Director Fram Clark at fclark@pscmail.org BY MAY 8, he will submit it to the DropBox on your behalf and have it posted to the PSC website. You can also bring a copy to the meeting to hand in there as well.

At the May hearing, there are two central issues we urge members to take up when preparing their testimony:

- 1) Our anger over the preemptive cuts called for in February by Vice Chancellor Hector Batista, detailing the grievous harm that the “saving plans” and VRBs have already wrought, or promise to wreak, on our campuses. We will be demonstrating the MISSING members of our community that such cuts threaten (with “Missing Persons” signs—Missing Adjunct, Missing Student, Missing Advisor)—our testimonies can speak directly to what it looks like, to us and to our schools, when cuts take away jobs and needed supports. Our basic demands are, No Layoffs, End the VRB, Fight for more money and reject austerity! Speaking to this might include
 - Job loss and job insecurity—members who have not been reappointed, or who face layoffs can tell our personal stories of what it means to work without job security (and for not enough pay!) Hard fought advances in adjunct job security are threatened when “adjunct budgets” are targeted and adjunct faculty with multiyear appointments are up for renewal.
 - Canceled searches/understaffing—how the VRB has hobbled our work

· Effects on student learning and student supports—the general understaffing we are already living with, and how it affects our students and their learning. Departments that can't offer certain classes, skyrocketing advisor workload, course caps being raised, class hours being threatened with cuts—we have stories to tell about how austerity decimates high quality education, teaching, learning and student services.

2) Come to the table! Close to 3,000 members have signed a bargaining petition. The union passed an ambitious and necessary bargaining agenda in February, but CUNY has not yet sat down to bargain a new contract. CUNY must set a regular schedule of bargaining sessions so that our demands—for salary increases, equity and parity increases, increased job security, remote and flexible work, full time lines, hiring and supporting faculty of color, more support for research and service, dependent tuition remission, protections in health and safety, protections in educational technology and distance learning, environmental standards—and the list goes on—are heard and met! We can speak to the demands that are most important to us, and why CUNY must begin to bargain NOW.