

Testimony for the Board of Trustees May 8, 2023

Good afternoon. My name is Holly Clarke. I am an adjunct lecturer at John Jay College of Criminal Justice—and have been for more than 25 years.

Imagine the following: Suppose CUNY wanted to deter students from registering and to lower the retention rates. What could CUNY Do?

How about the following:

- 1) Reduce course offerings and sections.
- 2) Increase class size.
- 3) Lay off experienced dedicated teachers.
- 4) Provide less advising, counseling and academic support.
- 5) And send overdue student bills to collections.

Wait! This exactly what the “savings plan” does. Yet CUNY management wants to do just the opposite -- attract students and retain them!

So, I have a simple suggestion: **Cancel the savings plan.**

- 1) Use the money from the recently enacted state budget to reverse the plan.
- 3) Restore the planned \$1.6 million cut to the John Jay adjunct budget, along with other cuts.
- 4) Offer the cancelled courses and sections this fall.
- 5) Rehire the adjunct faculty who taught these classes.
- 6) Bolster student advising, counseling and academic support,
- 7) And give students financial advice and assistance, rather than sending their unpaid bills to collections.

Thank you for listening.

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