

Statement as presented live on May 8, 2023 at the Board of Trustees Hearing at LGCC

Hi -

I am Jasmina Sinanović and this is my first and I hope last time here, as I don't want to have to repeat myself. I am an adjunct lecturer at CCNY since 2007. I was also a student of CUNY. I am also an immigrant, a non-binary human and a war survivor. I am here to remind you I am not a number.

I put my glasses on so I can see you. We all want to be seen. Do you see me?

In the Spring of 2020, when CUNY was trying to figure out how to navigate the pandemic those of us in direct contact with students were often their only connection to CUNY.

I spent countless hours listening to my students talk about family members they lost, about being afraid, about being sole supporters to their siblings. Our students were essential workers. For the world New Yorkers were numbers, for me they were my students, our children.

At the end of Spring 2020 BCC laid me off. As I qualified for 3 year contract I was too expensive for them, as an adjunct I was expendable. In the middle of the pandemic I was to be left without health insurance. Thanks to CCNY I did not but many of my colleagues did. It is now May again and we are threatened again.

How are we to support our students when we are not supported?

How are we to focus on teaching when we are repeatedly threatened?

I am here to ask you to advocate for us, to use your voices to amplify ours. It is your job to represent us. It is your job to use your proximity to power to advocate for those further away.

Us -> the faculty, staff and students

Us -> who clean, teach and learn

Us -> who make CUNY place to be

We ask you to ensure we are funded properly and treated with dignity.

Because we are friends and lovers and children.

Because we are CUNY and CUNY is a family, your family and family does not throw family under the bus.

Thank you!