

Testimony of Lynne Turner
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PSC-CUNY Vice-President for Part-time Personnel
CUNY Board of Trustees Hearing at City Tech
April 1, 2024

Hello, I am Lynne Turner, the Vice-President for Part-Timers for the PSC CUNY and a teaching adjunct at SLU and LaGuardia Community College and on a substitute lecturer appointment at SLU this semester.

I will begin with my statement to you, the leadership CUNY responsible for steering the ship of our university so pivotal to the social and economic mobility of working class students of NYC and end with an excerpt from Susan Diramo unable to be here tonight.

The 3 year appointment provisions were a historic breakthrough that prior CUNY administration's recognized were beneficial to the university as a whole – to part-time and full-time workers, departments and programs, to the university and CUNY communities, and most importantly to our students. Our PSC proposal is to build on this success to expand the scope of the appointments and also extend them to non-teaching adjuncts and adjunct CLT's. CUNY's egregious counterproposal reflects a university mindset wedded to fiscal austerity and extreme contingency not the blossoming of teaching and learning at the university. This is unacceptable. Our historic university is more than a balance sheet. It is time to shoulder responsibility and correct course. Our students deserve more. CUNY communities deserve more. We, CUNY's dedicated instructional staff deserves more and we will continue our fight to achieve more.

Now to Susan DiRamo's statement:

"I am Susan Di Raimo, I have two degrees one in languages and one in nursing. I have been an Adjunct Lecturer a CUNY for over 40 years at City College and Lehman College. I am now on my third three year appointment.

CUNY has a workforce of approximately 30,000 workers including about 11,000 Teachings Adjuncts who teach day after day, year after year. These Adjuncts as well as other workers ensure the students at CUNY succeed. ONLY approximately 3000 of the Adjunct Lecturers have a measure of Job Security. The balance, more than 8000, are insecure of their job even if they have worked at CUNY for five, ten or fifteen years or more. The appendix E program of three year appointments was instituted through negotiations in 2016 and renewed in subsequent bargaining whereas an Adjunct who had worked 10 semesters, five years could get a 3 year recurring contract after an extensive evaluation. (Susan herself has been evaluated over 25 times.)

Now CUNY wants to change the contract to demand Adjunct Lecturers wait 12 years for Job Security. This is an injustice. To wait for job security for 12 years is not acceptable.

To quote from an article on job security:

“When professionals feel secure in their jobs, they can focus more effectively on their work and produce high-quality results. This means job security can benefit both managers and employees in a workplace. (...) Employers show that they can manage change effectively, handling economic changes in a way that keeps employees safe. (...) Increased job security helps employees be more productive in their roles (...) enables greater focus and determination(...) provides motivation as they want to grow in their roles or career.”

Correct course CUNY Board of Trustees.