

Testimony of Lynne Turner
Adjunct Lecturer, LaGuardia Community College
PSC-CUNY Vice-President for Part-time Personnel
CUNY Board of Trustees Hearing at NYC College of Technology
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I am Lynne Turner, adjunct lecturer at LaGuardia Community College and Vice-President for Part Time Personnel for the PSC CUNY. I will get to the point. It is past time for CUNY to end its “gig academy” business model, reliant upon the labor of highly skilled part-time adjunct faculty and staff with minimal job security to endow it with low-cost labor and maximal flexibility and control. It is we, the adjunct faculty and staff, that teach the majority of courses, share our expertise and experience, mentor students, conduct research, run programs, many of us for 10, 20, 30, even 40 years. We are indispensable to the success of CUNY’s status as an engine of social mobility. CUNY runs on Adjunct Labor. We are not disposable widgets.

Yet rather than recognizing our work and taking measures to enhance our job security and access to full-time positions, CUNY administration instead consistently institutes unnecessary roadblocks. CUNY administration first fought tooth and nail during the last round of negotiations to dismantle our contractual multiyear appointment job security provisions, which our union resisted. Presently CUNY’s administration is placing unreasonable impediments to incorporating adjunct faculty assigned to academic programs into our bargained multiyear appointments including resistance to the basic common and fair practice of recognizing the prior service of the long-serving adjuncts that teach in programs. CUNY management: Implement Our Agreement! Further, I want to add my voice to those speaking out against announced cuts to courses and programs, and our adjunct faculty jobs, with negative impacts on student success at York College and elsewhere.

Further, we call upon you to Reinstate the Fired Fourth of the adjunct faculty summarily non-reappointed at Brooklyn College and other CUNY campuses in retaliation for exercising exactly the free expression and academic freedom that this university purports to protect. Three have been

reinstated through our organizing efforts and we will persist until they are all rehired.

In addition, I will add my voice to the many speaking out today for a healthy and safe workplace free from mold, dust, leaky ceilings and the multitude of hazards across CUNY campuses.

Finally, to restate my initial point. Our union does not accept and will continue to resist systemic contingency, the devaluation of our work, and resulting devaluation of our students. We call upon the CUNY Administration to end its dependence upon the “gig academy,” to expand adjunct job security provisions, and to embrace a people’s academy in service of students, workers, and communities.