

Testimony of Alan Feigenberg, Professor
Before the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York
Concerning the University Budget Request for FY 2015-2016 as it
Relates to the PSC-CUNY Collective Bargaining Agreement
(Calendar Item 3.F.)

24 November, 2014

I am Alan Feigenberg, Professor of Architecture at City College since 1981, and currently Director of the Masters Program in Urban Sustainability. I am speaking to Item 3F on the need for sufficient funding in the CUNY budget.

Clearly, most of us choose to teach at CUNY for personal, social and intellectual reason we want to work with, engage with, and facilitate the intellectual growth and development of the people of New York City. We interact and cooperate with the people of New York City in order to enrich their lives, the lives of their families and friends, and for the growth, development and improvement of our city!

As the costs of living continue to rise, CUNY must provide to all faculty, full-time and adjuncts, and to all staff reasonable pay to keep up with the escalation.

Our commitment to CUNY is a dynamic one. It's an ongoing and mutually enriching process, one of co-teaching and co-learning and not a dead-end, deadbeat place of employment!

You, our Board of Trustees, have a personal, social and political obligation and responsibility to assure pay that allows us to live comfortably, work passionately, raise our families adequately and retire with dignity in this great city of ours.

Without adequate pay for all of us, CUNY puts itself, and thereby all of us, in a constantly deteriorating cycle.

We owe it to our faculty and staff, we owe it to our students and their families, we owe it to New York City to manifest the respect that we have earned individually, collectively and institutionally.

We are not one of the wealthy, richly endowed, high tuition institutions that has the resources for open competition on the academic market.

We are a public institution whose faculty and staff pride ourselves in the service and education we offer to improving the lives of a majority of our New York families, neighbors, colleagues and friends.

Salaries reflect the respect shown to - we don't ask to become rich, but rather to be able to live a comfortable life that facilitates the space and place to build a stronger, more collaborative university with a community of teachers, advisors, counselors, office and maintenance staff who act as facilitators and guardians of our colleagues, ourselves and, most importantly, our students.

As the income and wealth gap accelerates, we seek to remain stable, respected and to be given the financial resources to continue to live in New York and thereby better serve the people of New York.

Thank you.

alan feigenberg

Professor of architecture since 1981

director of the masters program in urban sustainability

chair, ccny chapter of the psc-cuny

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