

TESTIMONY OF SUSAN DI RAIMO, VICE PRESIDENT OF PART-TIME PERSONNEL, PSC/CUNY

BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

October 16, 2017

I have come before you many times. Today you are different people but very vital people because you have in your hands the lives of the Future Generations of the City of New York.

I call on you to assist us in asking Governor Cuomo to sign the Maintenance of Effort bill that could mean about \$200 million for CUNY. We need your hard work Board of Trustees and every person related to CUNY.

I'm also here to urge you to not increase tuition and to request public funding to offset the need for a tuition hike. Tuition should be free at CUNY for all. I went to CCNY for free. I paid 56 dollars a semester, as did many of you. My four-year tuition came to \$400. You could be noted in the history books as the Board of Trustees at CUNY who stopped the tuition increases while on the Board.

I represent the 12,000 Adjuncts at CUNY. I am the Vice President for Part Time Personnel at the PSC . But I am not "part-time." I am Full Time at Part Time Pay. I said last time I spoke to the Board that I calculated CUNY owed me about one million dollars in pay.

Professor Melani an English Teacher at Brooklyn College in 1976 won a case against CUNY for not paying women faculty the same amount that male professors were getting in the same job. The professor decided to not take the money all the women were owed because it could have shut down CCNY and other colleges to pay the back pay. Instead, she and other defendants decided to make CUNY set up an office to oversee the problem. Today, Adjuncts are not receiving the money they should be getting. Any money owed me should be paid forward to not increase tuition and to make the situation right with the bulk of teachers teaching at CUNY , Adjunct teachers.

The bill we are asking the Governor to sign will begin to improve the funding situation at CUNY. That will help to raise Adjunct Teachers at CUNY salaries. Right now Adjuncts who teach the bulk of the courses at CUNY make 25,000 to 30,000 a year salary, which is poverty wages. We are asking for CUNY to pay Adjuncts \$7,000 a course. We are currently making 3,500 a course. Teaching is a noble profession, teaching should be paid nobly.