



CFU-UAW LOCAL 7902

Contract Faculty United at New York University



We write to express our support for NYU adjunct faculty, who are currently facing what appears to be a coordinated and retaliatory union-busting campaign on the part of the University administration. .

Following ACT-UAW's landmark contract agreement in fall of 2022, the administration has taken extraordinary measures toward limiting the teaching assignments of dozens of adjunct professors and effectively eliminating some adjunct teaching positions altogether. The specific measures taken by the administration have been outlined in detail in the statements released by ACT-UAW, the executive officers of NYU-AAUP, and concerned contract faculty in Liberal Studies; they include: the reduction in the course loads of all Writing core adjuncts in Liberal Studies, the shifting of courses to odd hours in an apparent effort to generate under-enrollment, and the "non-appointment" of multiple members of the adjunct faculty on what amounts to a technicality.

Notification of these measures was transmitted to adjuncts with no prior warning, following the submission of spring semester grades, and at a time when many faculty members are away from campus and unable to adequately respond to or protest these life-altering changes to their work schedules. There is no clear academic rationale for these decisions, and we stand with our adjunct colleagues and NYU-AAUP in questioning the limited explanations that have thus far been offered to adjuncts.

Although the administration frequently broadcasts its respect and appreciation for all members of the NYU community, its actions in this instance betray a profound disregard for adjunct labor, and, by extension, the working lives of the NYU faculty in general. Coming on the heels of a hard-fought contract, such a flagrant effort to erode union power undermines the administration's claims that it has sought to operate in good faith with ACT-UAW and the other unions currently representing thousands of NYU faculty and staff. These actions serve as an unavoidable red flag to contract faculty, a majority of whom support unionization and are currently negotiating over potential terms of a fair union election process. In a broader sense, the summary curtailing of the teaching responsibilities of dozens of faculty members represents an unacceptable breach of trust on the part of the administration and a betrayal of the spirit of community and care that must be placed at the very heart of our institution if it is to continue to flourish in these tumultuous times.

The vast majority of University courses are taught by non-tenure track faculty, including thousands of adjunct faculty. Many part-time faculty have been teaching for decades and helping sustain the University's academic mission to serve tens of thousands of students at NYU. We stand with our fellow full-time and part-time professors in whole-heartedly condemning these actions and urging the NYU administration to address the demands issued in our adjunct colleagues' recent press release.

Contract Faculty United - UAW