

**Testimony of Anselma Rodriguez, Higher Education Associate  
Before the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York**

**Concerning Funding for Adjunct Health Insurance  
In the CUNY Budget Request (Calendar Item 3.A.)**

**21 November, 2011**

My name is Anselma Rodriguez. I am a Higher Education Associate and a Professional Staff Congress delegate for HEOs at Brooklyn College. I would like to add my support to the call for health care for CUNY adjuncts. I started in the Financial Aid office in 1974. Later I joined the Admissions office, and in 1994, I joined the Graduate Dean's office. In 1985, I was offered a part-time position by the SEEK department to teach an ESL class. I have always thought that teaching was a lot fun, so when the opportunity came I jumped at it. I taught for several years.

The experience taught me that teaching involves long hours of preparation; more than non-teaching staff might be aware of. It requires commitment and a love of people. It is because of this experience and other observations that I support the call for full funding for adjunct health insurance.

Adjuncts are present in all departments and many departments have long-serving adjuncts. I know that some adjuncts are so much a part of their departments, and such a resource to their students, that their students actually think they are full-time faculty. They work long hours and sometime work at several different colleges.

Adjuncts are a core part of the CUNY workforce; they do a lot of the heavy lifting, and teach more than half the University's courses. They deserve to be treated as first-class citizens of this University. Health insurance for adjuncts, who teach multiple courses, should be available on the same basis as health insurance for full-timers.

Including funds for adjunct health insurance in the State budget request for the coming fiscal year was a big first step, but much more must be done to make that funding a reality. CUNY must lobby aggressively for those funds, and make sure that they are included in the enacted budget.

CUNY and NYS should do the right thing. Fund health insurance for adjuncts.