

**Testimony of Anthony Gronowicz, Adjunct Associate Professor
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

Because of my unique contributions as well as those of hundreds of other adjuncts, I urge the Board of Trustees to hold fast to the commitment Chancellor Goldstein has publicly made to treat adjunct health insurance funding as a priority in his formal budget request to the state; and to ensure that the current level of insurance be maintained.

Morale would be depressed if this request is not honored. Many adjuncts would be forced to apply for Medicaid.

I teach part-time at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) Social Science Department, and at the School of Professional Studies at the rank of Adjunct Associate Professor. I have held this rank since 1997. Teaching two courses a semester qualifies me for the health insurance that gives me the peace of mind to pursue assorted activities that include researching and writing history. Other adjuncts do the same.

I am one of the two elected faculty advisors to BMCC's Student Government Association (SGA). Among other duties, I give workshops, chaperone events, and address banquets like the Each One Reach One Mentoring Program that sprung from our SGA, and is having a major impact on the lives of our students.

This past year, I suggested revisions and copyedited SGA's first new Constitution in forty years. I also worked on Constitutional bylaws and the SGA web site.

When I was first elected in October 2006, I argued forcefully for an SGA appropriation of \$35,000 to send three faculty and 33 students to gut houses and remove mold in New Orleans' devastated ninth ward. Our January 2007 trip was a resounding success; and afterwards, the college gave it considerable publicity. I believe we were the first CUNY college to make this pilgrimage.

Two months later, I presented a paper on our experiences before the Oxford University Round Table, at Lincoln College. It became a chapter in my U.S. History book.

I take three annual trips with the SGA. The first, in late September is to Washington D.C., to attend the National Student Government Summit. The second, during the Columbus Day weekend, to a Catskill retreat with executives of the dozens of clubs that are funded and monitored by the SGA. As part of this year's retreat on October 7, I presented a workshop on conflict resolution. The next day, I presented a workshop called "Balancing Academics and Government." The third trip to Albany is during President's Day weekend. The SGA lobbies the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators, Inc. to secure more

CUNY resources. I arrange for students who wish to have their photos taken with our U.S. Senators and Congress people. This past February, I arranged for U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer to be photographed with our SGA president. Two years ago, BMCC's Lion's Club asked that I accept Vice President Scott Anderson's award on his behalf.

I feel like I am reading a resume, but you need to know that adjuncts do a lot more than teach.

This past November 11th, I introduced on stage the SGA president to an audience of hundreds of students present to watch contestants compete for the Mr. and Ms. BMCC pageant. I was also one of the four judges. The talent was extraordinary and all the contestants deserve as much support as required to pursue their artistic careers.

I have also written numerous recommendations for students. The most recent two months ago, led to that student receiving an internship in the New York City office of U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.

On September 8th of this year, a former Western Civilization student of mine who I successfully recommended to the Vassar Exploration program asked that I present testimony against gerrymandering before the Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment. I offered an historical assessment of how reapportionment in the nineteenth century reduced the will of the people. One state senator asked me to go into more detail—which I did. The student also requested to purchase an update of my U.S. History book.

I have also been asked on rare occasions, by full-timers to fill in without pay when required, most recently earlier this month in Western Civilization.

At BMCC, I am an official member of the Academic Senate, College Council, and Student Affairs Committee, and accompanied the Health and Safety Committee when they conducted an inspection of the Inwood satellite facility where I do most of my BMCC teaching.

I am also one of the thirteen members of the Professional Staff Congress' university-wide Academic Freedom Committee.

Again, I urge you to hold fast to the commitment Chancellor Goldstein has publicly made to treat adjunct health insurance funding as a priority in his formal budget request to the state; and to ensure that the current level of insurance be maintained.