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Subject: Adjunct faculty

Dear Board of Trustees

I wanted to share some excerpts from the Chronicle of Higher Education with you about adjunct faculty — something to keep in mind as the field of higher education seems to rely so heavily on adjunct employment. Please keep in mind it was written for a university, but it applies to community college.

The changing nature of the professoriate affects tenured and tenure-track faculty, too. Having more adjuncts doesn't provide the help they [full-timers/administration] need to run their departments, leaving them with more service work and seats on more committees at the same time that research requirements, for some, have also increased.

At many institutions with graduate programs, a shrinking number of tenured and tenure-track faculty members are left to advise graduate students—a task that typically does not fall to adjuncts.

This is significant in that as full-time faculty take on more and more administrative and counseling duties (as per the new "collectives" that are being proposed in the Senate) in addition to teaching, grading and preparing for class and doing committee work, adjunct faculty cannot possibly assist the college in this respect.

The shift [to reliance on adjunct faculty] can also affect students. Studies show that they suffer when they are taught by adjuncts, many

of whom are good teachers but aren't supported on the job in the ways that their tenured colleagues are. Many adjuncts don't have office space, which means they have no place on campus to meet privately with students.

And some adjuncts themselves say their fears about job security can make them reluctant to push students hard academically. If students retaliate by giving them bad evaluations, their jobs could be in jeopardy.

Many adjuncts are also cautious about what they say in the classroom, an attitude that limits the ways they might engage students in critical thinking and rigorous discussion

The bottom line, after myself having taught adjunct for 10+ years in the community college system, is that although replacing full-time faculty with part-time faculty may save the school money, I am much more effective to the college as a full-time faculty member than I was, and could have been, as a part-time one.

Thank you for reading, and have a nice day.

Source: http://chronicle.com/article/Adjuncts-Build-Strength-in/135520/?cid=wb&utm_source=wb&utm_medium=en

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