“A Day Without Adjuncts” (Still) Higher Education’s Invisible Class

NYS Conference
American Association of University Professors (AAUP)
25 February 2021

Thomas Carroll
Keuka College
Chair, NYSC AAUP Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession
• Responses from across the state and a few out of state, even Florida (via Zoom.) Very many from NYC + LI region.

• Types of institutions - 64% private, 36% public. (AFT survey was ~ 14% private.)

• 60% Female, 36% Male (very similar to AFT survey.)

• Age distribution 12% over 70...60% over 50.
  • We are older.

• 83% are paid on a per-course basis

• Titles - evenly divided ranging from Adjunct to Adjunct Lecturer to ... Adjunct Professor, and about 13% various other titles.
• Possibility of being promoted - approximately 40/40 yes/no and many of the remaining 20% said that they did not know.

• Adjuncts are paid over a wide range (per course): - about 31% at $3 K or less - 50% of respondents are in the $3 K - $5 K range - 16% are $2 K or less! (This is similar to the AFT survey that showed 38% at $3 K or less and 44% in the $3 K - $5 K range.

  • We are inexpensive

• Type of work expected - classroom teaching, office hours, grading, etc. Office space is mainly shared. Only 50% are provided with a computer. Less than 40% a phone.

  • We are inexpensive, older, overworked, and have to provide ourselves with technology.
• 2018 AAUP Study - 73% of instructional positions nationwide are “off the tenure track”
  • *We are inexpensive, older, overworked, have to provide ourselves with technology, and numerous!*
“A Day Without Adjuncts”

(Still) Higher Education's Invisible Class

NYS Conference
American Association of University Professors (AAUP)
25 February 2021

Ángel L. Martinez, Chair, Committee on Faculty Holding Contingent Employment
At a glance?

• Which of the following best describes you? (%)
  • W (76), B/AA (7), H/L (4.5), A (3), AI/AN (0.1), Other (0.3) N/A (6)

• How many different institutions are you teaching at as an adjunct/contingent for the period of this academic year (2020-2021)? (%)
  • 1 (65), 2 (22), 3 (9), 4 (2), 5 (1), 6 (0.1), 6< (0.5)

• How many institutions will you be teaching for on a given day this semester (spring 2021)? (%)
  • 1 (68), 2 (19.5), 3 (5), 4 (1), 5 (0.16), 6 (0.16), Other* (6)

* Usually, zero or unknown
At a glance?

- What is the total number of classes you teach each week? (%)
  - 1 (20), 2 (25), 3 (19.5), 4 (12), 5 (6), 6 (3), 7 (1.8), 8 (1), 9 (0.6), 10 (1.8), 12 (0.5)

- What is the maximum number of credits you are allowed to teach each semester as an adjunct/contingent faculty member? How many credits each academic year?
  - (Usually, about 6–9 credits a semester, 18–24 in an academic year, with considerable fluctuation given the variety of answers.)

- What percentage of your teaching was done totally on-line pre-COVID?
  - (Vast majority zero, a considerable number were 100%)
At a glance?

• What is the percentage of your teaching time is currently done totally on-line?
  • 81%

• What is your longest one-way commute to teach, e.g. the length of time it takes you to get from home to your place of work or between work sites? (%)
  • M <15 (14), 15-30 (24), 30-45 (17), 45-60 (16)
  • H 1-1.5 (12), 1.5-2 (6), 2-2.5 (2.8), 2.5-3 (1), Other* (7)
  • * Responses reflect COVID, with answers including “home” & “online,” with a few reporting 3.5 and even 4 hrs!