

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

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

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- 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!*

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Ángel L. Martínez, 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!