

Dear Father McShane and members of the Board of Trustees,

I am a class of '07 graduate, a Programs Manager at an NGO, and a proud Fordham alumna. I entered Fordham pre-med, but my experiences in service learning, Global Outreach, and the Dorothy Day Center gave me a heart for social justice. I ended up seeking a Masters Degree at the Clinton School of Public Service in Arkansas, mainly so that I could become more involved in service and social justice. I owe my career path and my current success to Fordham University, where I learned to be "bothered by injustice."

That guiding principle is why I have donated to Fordham University every year despite my modest salary, and why I am writing today to express my anger at the current impasse between the administration and the faculty. It is my understanding and experience that the faculty is the heart of the University, and my teachers were certainly my most valued aspect of my education at Fordham. I am perplexed about why the University does not share this value. If it truly did, it would:

- understand and respect that the work faculty does is often beyond the classroom
- believe that such work deserves fair pay
- guarantee excellent benefits to faculty and staff
- refuse to punish the sick and disabled with higher costs
- continue the process of shared governance in decisions of salary and benefits
- ensure a livable wage in expensive New York City
- listen to the concerns of faculty, staff, students, and alumni

From what I am hearing, this is not the case at Fordham right now, and I for one will not be donating again until these principles return to my university.

I will also not be continuing my customary "free P.R." for Fordham by bragging about my school and its caring environment. On the contrary, I will be honest with everyone I speak to about Fordham through my professional and social networks, and tell them that the Fordham Administration has taken the wrong path and is no longer valuing faculty, and by extension, education.

Please halt your imposition of poor benefits and weak salary on the faculty and staff at my alma mater. As a Programs Manager, I know the value of good press, and I know the harm that bad press can do. I do not want to see my university degraded; I want to help Fordham celebrate its 175th birthday with all members of the community heard, respected, and thriving.

Sincerely,