

Dear Father McShane and members of the Board of Trustees,

I am currently a junior majoring in Communications with a Catholic Studies concentration at Fordham. In my almost three years here, I have had countless wonderful experiences, and equally wonderful professors to thank for them. Therefore, I am writing today to express my concern about their current struggle with the administration to keep their excellent benefits.

At Fordham, we are taught about the Jesuit ideals from day one, and I genuinely feel there is a continuous effort to live them out on campus. The concept of *cura personalis* is integrated into our daily lives through the actions of our teachers, R.A.s, coaches, and deans, and makes Fordham a uniquely warm community. Therefore, it certainly should also be applied to how faculty is treated by the administration. In fact, healthcare should be an obvious way for a Jesuit University to demonstrate *cura personalis* to its faculty and staff. The imposition of a healthcare plan that punishes the sick and costs every member essentially a pay cut is a violation of this Jesuit principle.

We are also taught to be “men and women for others.” At Fordham, this means not just doing service work, but helping people both inside and outside of our community when we can. By writing this letter, I am doing what I can to help the professors I have been lucky to learn from, but I also feel that the Administration can demonstrate the importance of this compassion *towards others* by respecting the healthcare contract already in place and returning to the principles of co-governance between the University and its faculty. Our professors not only teach us, but lead us through life-changing service projects, shape our careers by writing our letters of recommendation, participate in and attend our events, show us the incredible value of New York City, lead us on study tours, direct our theses, and advise us through whatever we may need during these transitional years of our lives. To say that it is sad to hear that these people who are most influential in our education will be struggling to afford their medical treatments would be an understatement.

I have also learned that, while tuition costs have been rising, inflation and meager raises have sent faculty salaries on a decline. I (and my parents) believe that we clearly pay enough each year to Fordham that my professors should receive raises that keep up with New York’s inflation, in addition to the previously mentioned health benefits. We are New York City’s Jesuit University! Faculty should not have to struggle to make ends meet.

For these reasons, I urge you to apply Fordham’s Jesuit ideals to faculty as firmly as they are taught to students. Otherwise, students will surely become less supportive of their school, and thus less likely to volunteer their time (NSO, RHS, etc.) on campus to support attracting new students, as well as to donate to Fordham later in life. Please don’t impose a healthcare change on the faculty and please return to shared governance. I will stand with my professors, tutors, coaches, and all other faculty until that happens.

Sincerely,