

Rutgers University Senate Resolution on Part-Time Lecturer Healthcare

May 1, 2020

Background

In order for Rutgers to come through the unprecedented parlous situation in which we now find ourselves, our guiding principle must be that we are all in this situation together and we must sacrifice and help each other to survive. Not only must every member of our academic community sacrifice, but so must Rutgers as an institution.

Every member of the Rutgers community is living under a threat that can lead to death. In order to reduce this threat, we have closed our campuses and are now carrying out all interactions remotely. Nevertheless, members of our community are still vulnerable. Of course we all hope that should it be needed, all of us will have access to health care that will at the very least save our lives.

Unfortunately, indeed shamefully, thousands of members of our community will not have such access. Part time faculty (also known as Part-Time Lecturers or Adjuncts) do not have health insurance. Rutgers made the decision some time ago that it would not provide health benefits nor even assistance in acquiring health benefits to our part time faculty.

Although these are different times part time faculty across all of our four campuses have continued to provide instruction and clinical help, often to a greater extent than previously. It is unconscionable that many of these faculty will not have access to health care that can save their lives because they do not have insurance. Rutgers cannot allow this situation to continue.

Resolution

The University Senate calls upon the administration to provide resources to part time faculty (also known as Part-Time Lecturers or Adjuncts) sufficient so that all who need health insurance can acquire it.