

**Statement:** The AAUP Council leads the national conversation about higher education. As an adjunct professor in AAUP-CBC and Chapter leadership, I bring vast experience to the Council during a national labor crisis.

Adjunct and contingent faculty can no longer afford to regard the stewardship of academic freedom as something outside our own practice. Our collective future, part-time and full-time, tenured and untenured, public and private, mentor and grad student – demands that we organize around the defense of academic freedom – a freedom which is being challenged now in the highest courts of our nation. Think about it: adjunct faculty, on national average, now do 75% of the teaching in America’s colleges and universities. 75% of teaching in America’s campuses is conducted by professors who are exhausted and insecure. This convenient economic model has resulted in large administrative salaries, climbing walls in gyms, even medical schools. But let’s not get distracted: the adjunctification of higher education is part of a sustained campaign to destroy tenure by gutting tenure lines. This should be of great and urgent concern to all adjunct professors, because when they gut the institution of tenure, we adjunct faculty can be handed texts, proscribed curricula, and be censured in the classroom. There will be no one left with tenure to defend us. Adjunct faculty are a resource that cannot be ignored or dismissed, and it’s time we stopped dismissing ourselves. We cannot afford it.

I’ve negotiated two contracts in the largest private faculty union in the country and made historic gains in job security and benefits for adjunct and junior faculty. My work in the CBC has included organizing, committee work, and hard decisions in planning for an uncertain future.

Revitalizing AAUP State Conferences where they have languished should be central to our plan. We must all stand up against the anti-intellectualism which clunks like a tugboat in the sea of incoherence that is the Trump administration. This is the perspective and experience I bring to the National Council, and with your vote, I will continue to fight for faculty’s place as the steward of academic disciplines and practices.

### **Biography**

As a three-term Recording Secretary of Hofstra-AAUP, a collective bargaining chapter with nearly 900 members, I planned and led our successful 2011 and 2016 contract campaigns through a year-long rollout of events and actions. Collaborating with fellow officers, chapter staff, and state and national leaders and staff, we prioritized organization. We brought the One Faculty campaign home, and understood its expression to be standing as One – tenured and untenured, adjunct and full-time -- and we doubled the size of our unit. I bargained successfully at the table in 2011 and 2016, the first adjunct professor to ever have done so at Hofstra. I have served on the AAUP-CBC since 2016, also the first part-time professor to ever have been elected.

I’m the Director of Irish Studies at Hofstra, and my academic interests include Writing Studies, Irish literature, American drama, Irish drama, Study Abroad, community partnerships, creative writing. I gave the Tennessee Williams/Shakespeare 101 talk at the Tennessee Williams Provincetown Festival, and will talk about Williams and Beckett in 2018. I co-authored Off-Broadway’s longest-running comedy, *Tony n’ Tina’s Wedding*, where I also earned my first union card in 1989. As a first-gen college student, I am the especially proud mother of two daughters: one a senior at Hofstra University, and one a TA at Temple University, where she is a representative of TUGSA, the Temple University Graduate Student Association.