

Part-time faculty just can't give any more

Letter from part-time faculty member to administrator:

Dear Sir:

Re: Faculty and Staff Fundraising Campaign

Nice try, but unfortunately your timing is poor.

I have been a part-time faculty member for over a decade. This fall I was invited to take on an extra hour of teaching – which put me over the magic seven-hour threshold.

What an amazing experience!

I got a 75 per cent pay raise! Benefits! Paid sick leave! Low cost tuition for courses at the college! Not to mention protection under the Employment Standards Act and the right to unionize. All this for doing the same-old, same-old that I've been doing for the last umpteen courses:

- Design the curriculum
- Plan it out over the course outline
- Create handouts and teaching materials
- Deliver the course
- Create testing materials and assignments
- Mark tests and assignments
- Meet with students as needed
- Attend faculty meetings as needed

It was awfully nice while it lasted. As of this term, I'm back in the part-time bracket, performing exactly the same services for probably about half the cost to the college, given the benefits package.

Imagine my surprise, then, being asked to contribute to student scholarships. I hope you will understand when I tell you I am already subsidizing student tuition to a very generous extent.

I will be pleased to contribute to the college's development efforts at some point in the future, when the efforts of part-time faculty are recognized commensurately with the services they provide to the college.

Yours truly,

(name withheld to protect part-time faculty member's job security)

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