

Submitter: Erica Thomas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB416

Adjuncts teach 38% of PSU's classes, and make up 40% of the faculty, but are paid significantly less than our colleagues per credit hour for the same work. This % of faculty that are adjuncts has been increasing for years. Not only are we paid less, but we often have more experience or are more highly qualified to teach on our subject matter as many of us, myself included, are actually presently working outside of academia in the fields we teach. This not just unethical, it is bad for our public universities to be run by underpaid temps because it's harmful to the quality of education we are offering students, who deserve a quality, well funded public education. PSU is a "majority minority institution" according to the administration, and has historically served a significantly working class student body, with a high percentage of "non-traditional" and first generation students. These students deserve a quality public education. And we must fund the promise we made these students.

Suppressing wages, and creating a class of poorly paid, unsupported faculty is going to be bad for our region as these faculty will leave to seek jobs that support their teaching and research and value their contributions to their institutions and communities. I have recently been selected as a finalist for a full time tenure track job out of state, which I applied to because I see no future for me here. My colleagues are brilliant but also exhausted from working multiple jobs and making a MAXIMUM of LESS than \$25k through teaching. If we want healthy public universities that attract bright and inspiring students and faculty to come here and stay here, we must fund good quality jobs in higher education.