

My name is Sarah Slavick and I live at 87 D Brookside Avenue in Jamaica Plain. I want to thank Councilors Mazen, Cheung and McGovern for sponsoring the resolution in support the Adjunct faculty at Lesley University. Last week, I spoke about the conditions of being an adjunct at Lesley University where I have been a professor for 15 years. At Lesley, 48% of the faculty are marginalized with little to no say in the curriculum, with little to no job security and miserably low pay. The adjuncts at Lesley University voted overwhelmingly to unionize with a of vote of 359 to 67. The adjunct faculty maintained this momentum to move quickly into a campaign for our first contract and have been bargaining with the administration since this past summer. While we have made some progress, there has been little movement in the area of compensation. This past Friday, at our latest bargaining meeting, the administration made an economic proposal that would continue to pay poverty wages for adjunct faculty. Their proposal would mean that an adjunct with a terminal degree in her field teaching five classes, nearly a full time job, would still be earning under \$20,000 a year in the year 2018. Obviously, this is unacceptable. Lesley, like many universities across the country, has seen a huge increase in administrative positions and salaries of those positions. Since 2009, President Joe Moore's compensation has increased by over 100,000 dollars to 509,000 dollars today. Lesley's budget, along with the national trend, reflects values that belie its' educational mission. Recent studies have shown that universities that have top-heavy executive spending also have more adjuncts, more overall administrative spending and more student debt.

It doesn't have to be this way at Lesley and across the nation. Many adjuncts are unionizing all over the country as awareness of the situation in higher education grows. Please help us to send a message to the administration to agree to equitable compensation and job stability for its adjunct faculty. Again, thank you for your support.

