

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

To: The Board of Trustees of Long Island University (LIU)  
CC: Dr. Kimberly R. Cline, President, LIU  
CC: Dr. Jeffrey Kane, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs  
CC: Kimberly Casalino, Associate Vice President for Marketing & Public Relations  
CC: Dr. Jessica Rosenberg, President, LIU Faculty Federation (LIUFF)  
CC: Dr. Ralph Engelman, Vice President, LIUFF  
CC: Dr. Emily Drabinski, Secretary, LIUFF  
CC: American Federation of Teachers  
CC: American Association of University Professors

As students of Long Island University—Brooklyn, we are deeply concerned at the locking out of our mentors and professors from the university.

We would like to express to The Board of Trustees our deep concerns with the current administration, particularly President Dr. Kimberly R. Cline and Vice President Dr. Jeffrey Kane, who have been vocal in advocating for the lockout as the best course of action. We wholeheartedly disagree with this view, as we cannot imagine moving forward without our professors and mentors, who have given (and continue to give) so much to us. Our professors are the lifeblood of the university, and without them, many specialized programs would cease to exist. Without the special relationships our professors have cultivated with external institutions, many of the clinical programs (e.g., Nursing, Clinical Psychology, Physician's Assistant) would flounder. All students deserve the specialized attention that is afforded to them by the professors that attracted them to the university in the first place, whether they be a freshman undergraduate student, a graduate student, or a student in a specialized program.

Since 1968, the Department of Psychology at LIU-Brooklyn has trained doctoral students to work in both clinical settings and academic positions. The draw of the doctoral program at LIU-Brooklyn is the strong qualifications and the widely known excellent reputation of the faculty, who are esteemed academics with decades of research and clinical experience. We chose LIU-Brooklyn to work with specific faculty members, and they have always been highly accessible to us for guidance and supervision. We are truly saddened by the fact that this has not been the case since the lockout.

We students also take issue with the words of Dr. Jeffrey Kane, in his letter to students of the university dated September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, which stated "...every additional dollar spent on faculty salaries and benefits is a dollar *not* spent on student scholarships, new labs and facilities or campus safety..." As students at the university, we deplore that Vice President Kane has effectively framed the negotiations as students' choice between their professors' being compensated equally and our own safety, security, and livelihood. The use of this bargaining tactic by the administration is atrocious. Implicitly threatening to

revoke student scholarships and threaten student safety by administrators who should be advocating for our welfare should not be stood for. We, the students, will not stand for this rhetoric, and we hope the Board of Trustees recognizes that these tactics set dangerous precedents for how we are treated as students.

The rhetoric put forth by the administration also seems inappropriate considering that President Cline recently put forth an image of the University as financially secure with a positive outlook (with an endowment of \$135 million and assets of \$34 million [<http://www.seawanhakapress.com/2016/04/21/liu-president-kimberly-cline-declares-campus-crisis-over-liuff-responds/>]). This information directly conflicts with the choices Vice President Kane appears to be forcing on the student body, and we respectfully request that the Board of Trustees investigate this egregious discrepancy.

The lockout perpetuated by the LIU administration will also undoubtedly have a dramatic impact on the University's standing in the academic world. The faculty and students of LIU-Brooklyn have an impressive resume of publications. We pride ourselves on our scholarly productivity, and it is our wish to continue our learning as scholar-practitioners. However, as a result of the lockout, all faculty and student research (including doctoral dissertations) is suspended. In addition, several doctoral students are planning to apply for external funding this semester (e.g., NSF graduate fellowship grants), yet they will be unable to do so if the lockout does not end soon. Many international students rely on external funding to support the cost of tuition and living expenses, and the inability to apply for these grants puts the enrollment of our international students at risk.

We also profoundly disagree with President Cline's assertion that the temporary replacements are qualified to teach our courses, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Last week, members of our second-year class sat for 45 minutes in an empty classroom waiting for the instructor for the Dynamic Psychotherapy course, only to find that no instructor showed up. In addition, an athletic administrator from the Post campus covered the PhD level Developmental Psychology course. This is unacceptable. Our curriculum needs to fulfill accreditation requirements established and monitored by the American Psychological Association, which requires instructors with doctoral level degrees in psychology. We cannot afford, in our careers and financially, to attend empty classrooms or ones taught by unqualified temporary replacements.

Moreover, many of the psychology doctoral students are currently working in the community, providing services to individuals suffering from severe psychiatric issues (e.g., psychotic disorders and suicidality). These mental health conditions require the close supervision of doctoral-level, licensed psychologists, and a temporary replacement that does not carry the proper qualifications and licensure is simply an unacceptable solution. In fact, it is unethical and raises issues of legal liability for the University. We urge the Board of Trustees to consider these critical issues as the negotiations move forward.

We demand that the Board of Trustees of the University will fulfil its responsibilities and facilitate an end to this conflict so that we can return to learning, as many of us students are in time-limited programs, have external commitments such as families, and work to support ourselves and pay tuition. We simply cannot afford, finance-wise or career-wise, to show up to empty classrooms, or to be taught material that is not part of curriculum and may put our accreditation by external academic bodies at risk. We request a meeting with a member of the Board of Trustees to hear our concerns and discuss an appropriate course of action with a group of representatives from our department. We appeal to the Board of Trustees as our last advocates, as the administration has ignored us and has prevented our professors from advocating for our best interests.

Sincerely,

Clinical Psychology PhD Students at Long Island University—Brooklyn