



Sociology/Anthropology Department

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October 26, 2016

Chancellor Frank T. Brogan
Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education
2986 N 2nd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-1201

Dear Chancellor Brogan,

We write this open letter to congratulate you on having successfully negotiated a contract with our academic colleagues, collaborators, and research partners in the Pennsylvania State System. We work at a private institution, but our profession is one, and thus we also wish to express our support for our colleagues. Their working without a contract for more than 478 days was not sustainable, and we shared their concerns over inadequate pay and benefits. The (thankfully short) strike was unfortunate but surely necessary. We know the faculty would have much rather been in the classroom educating another generation of students.

Our work as anthropologists and sociologists helps us appreciate and analyze deepening problems of social inequality and the value of education as an important form of capital and social uplift. We extol our colleagues' diligent work to protect quality higher education, and we appreciate your returning to the negotiating table to address their concerns.

We are also Pennsylvania taxpayers, and we are mindful of the importance of a minimum sense of security for professors, who offer critical services to the Commonwealth. Educators in the United States have traditionally made great sacrifices, personally and financially, to pursue their vocations, but that does not make their dilemma acceptable.

We have been impressed with the way in which permanent faculty in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education have stood up for the interests of their more vulnerable adjunct faculty colleagues. This speaks well of your system and shows that you have a tradition of hiring impressive faculty members. We encourage you to continue in that same tradition and work to

attract and retain excellent faculty through better compensation that demonstrates the appreciation and respect they deserve as highly-trained professionals. Your efforts to ensure access to high quality educational opportunities will go far to serve the common good.

Thank you again for responding to the legitimate concerns of our colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee A. Smithey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "S".

Lee Smithey, Acting Chair

Joy Charlton

Christopher Fraga

Farha Ghannam

Nina Johnson

Daniel Laurison

Michael Mullan

Braulio Muñoz

Maya Nadkarni

Christy Schuetze

Sarah Willie-LeBreton