



University of San Francisco Part-Time Faculty Association
American Federation of Teachers/ CA Federation of Teachers Local 6590
2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco CA 94117
www.usfPTFA.org

Resolution for USF Media Studies to Reinstate Participation Rights of Part Time Faculty

WHEREAS, In October of 2018 full-time faculty in the University of San Francisco's Media Studies department voted to strip part-time faculty of the right to attend most department meetings; and

WHEREAS, the disenfranchisement of adjunct faculty took place without notification of or discussion with adjuncts; and

WHEREAS, adjunct faculty had been previously permitted to attend all department meetings, but had not usually been notified of the meeting dates and times despite repeated requests by adjuncts; and

WHEREAS, the department of Media Studies has been identified in charges of "Unfair Labor Practices" against USF Administration with the National Labor Relations Board; and

WHEREAS, both the USF Administration and the full time faculty union, the USF Faculty Association (USFFA, AFT Local 4269) claim they have no jurisdiction regarding the Media Studies By-laws and assert that the full time faculty are free to strip part-time faculty colleagues of their right to attend department meetings without notification or discussion; and

WHEREAS, the approximately 650 adjunct faculty at USF are represented by the USF Part Time Faculty Association (USF PTFA), AFT Local 6590; and

WHEREAS, the lack of transparency and exclusion of marginalized part-time faculty from information-sharing and decision-making discussions is taking place by full time faculty in Media Studies, a so-called "critical studies" department; and

WHEREAS, "critical studies" ostensibly addresses power imbalances, social inequalities, marginalized social groups, and human rights; and

WHEREAS, the department of Media Studies sponsors a "Human Rights Film Festival" that purports "*In keeping with the social justice mission of USF, the festival seeks to make the university a center for the promotion of human rights, as well as a platform to raise consciousness about abuses worldwide*"; and

WHEREAS, USF is a Jesuit Catholic university, with a stated commitment to human rights and social justice; and

WHEREAS, as noted by Andrew Marzoni, "Academics may cast themselves as hardened opponents of dominant norms and constituted power, but their rituals of entitlement and fiendish loyalty to established networks of caste and privilege undermine that critical pose."**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the USF Part Time Faculty Association calls on full time faculty in the department of Media Studies to recognize the privileges of their full time positions and, in some cases, a job for life (tenure); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PTFA calls on full time faculty in Media Studies to follow the ideals of human rights and social justice; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the PTFA urges full time faculty in Media Studies to reinstate the rights of part time faculty to attend all department faculty meetings.

Adopted on 19 March 2019 by the Policy Board of the USF Part Time Faculty Association

**Marzoni, Andrew. 1 Nov 2018. "Academia is a Cult," *The Washington Post*, online edition.