

Testimony for SB 416

Thank you for having me, Chair Dembrow, and, of course, Vice Chair Weber. Glad you are here considering this important issue as you are my representative on the North Coast.

My name is Ryan Hume and I have been teaching writing as an adjunct instructor at Clatsop Community College for eight years now. I have taught the entire curriculum, from Language Arts 90, with struggling writers and ELL students, through Advanced Composition. In addition, I have taught literature courses and have had the pleasure to be the faculty advisor to Rain Magazine, Oregon's longest-running literary journal, which is produced annually by the students of Clatsop Community College, with much help from our local community. Our 53rd annual issue is forthcoming later this spring.

I returned to Oregon as an educator in 2013 after having taught in the University of California system for five years, first as a Teaching Assistant, then as a Lecturer, with an annual contract. After initially being hired to teach as an adjunct writing instructor at Clatsop Community College, it was two years before I ever stepped into a classroom, as classes kept being cancelled due to low enrollment. In the meantime, of course, I had to cobble together a number of different jobs, but it was wonderful to finally meet a group of students in a classroom overlooking the Columbia River. It is truly a million dollar view, which brings me to my point: Clatsop County, like many counties in Oregon, is not a cheap place to live.

We cannot continue to ask people to do their best work at half the cost and expect this to not affect our students.

I can only speak highly of my full-time faculty colleagues and administration as they have helped me navigate some of the specifics of our bureaucracy and offered me plenty in conversation geared toward professional development. In fact, many of my full-time colleagues, including our full time union president, have voiced support for SB 416. I have served on a number of committees at Clatsop Community College, and am involved with managing student clubs pro bono. It's really a privilege to be able to share my knowledge of a craft I love with students who have a variety of career paths, whether it is a transfer degree, an automotive certificate, or a police officer who wants to improve their reports. Ethically, it's a good life. But the reality is a bit more disconcerting when you consider that Part Time faculty makes \$.46 on the dollar to Full Time faculty for doing the same job. This is absent of health insurance, retirement, etc. We're only talking about instructors in front of classrooms. At Clatsop Community College, part time faculty greatly outweigh the number of full time faculty members, which means that the majority of our classrooms are being led by people who make less than half on the dollar.

To my knowledge, there is no culture of Part Time faculty at Clatsop Community College outside the union, and I assume this is not particular to my campus. As a member of the bargaining team for our semi-annual contract, tracking instructors down has been a labor of love, but I understand why we are so scarce. Personally, I work two or three jobs on top of my teaching load, which are freelance and

irregular at best, just to make meets end. My wife has a second job, which affords us health insurance; something I could not afford at \$.46 on the hour.

As adjunct instructors, we are generally vacant outside of class and office hours because we are elsewhere, trying hard. I would like to know more of them.

I do love my job and the students I have gotten to know. But, in good conscious, this is not a career path I would encourage my own daughter to pursue in its current state. I would encourage her to seek out a path where her hard work is acknowledged and compensated.

So, is \$.46 on the dollar a sustainable wage? In the same classroom? At the same time? Can we please consider SB 416, and what it means for families, persons, and students.