

Proposal: Compensating Student Employees at a Fair & Just Wage

Submitted by: Manhattan College Student Government Assembly

Resolution Committee Members: Ryan Quattromani (Resolution Committee Chairman & Senior Class Vice President), Micaela Bishop (Student Body President), Phillip Mourikes (Executive Vice President), Margaret Flores (Vice President for Commuter Affairs), Patrick Estanbouli (Vice President for Residential Affairs), Liam Moran (Junior Class Vice President), Michael Hackett (Sophomore Class Vice President), John Wood (School of Business Vice President)

Date: November 1, 2017

Rationale: The Manhattan College Student Government propose that the minimum wage for all student college employees at least meet that of New York State standards, which shall presently incrementally increase to \$15.00 by December 31st, 2018.

- The minimum wage for all student employees (including federal work study) has a base wage of \$9 per hour. This is in disparity with the New York State minimum wage, which is currently \$11 for large employers in New York City. The state legislation as of December 31st, 2016 requires a series of wage increases to the maximum wage of \$15 per hour by December 31st, 2018. (NYLL Article 19 §652)
- Based on the five core principles of the Lasallian tradition as well as the mission of Saint John Baptist De La Salle, we believe by not adhering to the New York State minimum wage, we are not committed to “concern for the poor, and social justice” and “inclusive community,” for example.
- According to the college’s website, “research shows that students who participate in student employment programs are more connected to their college and generally achieve greater academic success.” We want to ensure the college values student employees enough to compete equally with off campus employers, in an effort to keep students on campus so they may contribute to our rich and diverse community. We shall incentivize students for their contribution to the college as they shall benefit from working on campus.
- Though it is not required to abide by the New York State minimum wage, many New York higher-ed institutions recognize the state minimum wage including Columbia University, Pratt Institute, New York University, SUNY, The New School, City College, Cornell University, and Ithaca College. We strongly believe in the fair and just compensation of our students.

Solution:

- For the reasons detailed above, we request the Manhattan College Senate, President Brennan O’Donnell Ph.D. and Members of the Board of Trustees support us in compensating student employees at least at that of New York State standards going forward. This implies the student wage be immediately increased to a minimum of \$11.00 per hour. Also, some students currently earn above \$11.00 per hour and may not be impacted immediately (but could be in the future).

Proposed Resolution:

Whereas Manhattan College should abide by New York State Labor Law Article 19 Section 652.

Whereas the morals and values of St. John Baptist De La Salle as well as the Mission of Manhattan College urge us to fulfill the mission of educating the poor and respect for all people.

Therefore, we, Student Government, do hereby advise Manhattan College match New York State Law mandating the minimum wage pursuant to Article 19 § 652.