



**Office of Representative Verla Insko**

North Carolina House of Representatives  
502 Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603  
919-733-7208

February 9, 2016

Office of the President  
Duke University  
207 Allen Building  
Box 90001  
Durham, NC 27708-0001

Office of the Provost  
Duke University  
220 Allen Building  
Box 90005  
Durham, NC 27708

Dear President Brodhead and Provost Kornbluth:

North Carolina has long been known for its outstanding system of higher education. Between our public system and private institutions like Duke University, our state has the reputation of a place where higher education thrives.

But in recent years, the corporatization of higher education has pushed North Carolina students deeper and deeper into debt and marginalized university faculty. This trend is alarming. At Duke University, where the published tuition price has increased 55% over the past decade, more than 40% of faculty now lack access to tenure.

As you know, contingent faculty at Duke are taking steps to reverse these trends by forming a union. By achieving progress at Duke, a standard-setter in the region, your contingent faculty will help raise standards across the state and nation.

As elected members of the North Carolina House of Representatives, we fully support Duke faculty's efforts to create a union.

We urge you to follow the lead of administrators at Georgetown University who remained neutral when their contingent faculty formed a union. We believe the entire Duke community—and indeed, all of North Carolina—will be best served by your decision to take a fully neutral stance as your faculty unionizes.

Sincerely,

Rep. Verla Insko  
House District 56 – Orange County

Rep. Susan Fisher  
House District 114 – Buncombe County

Rep. Pricey Harrison  
House District 57 – Guilford County

Rep. Bobbi Richardson  
House District 7 – Franklin and Nash Counties