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dear search applicant committee

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dear search applicant committee:

i would like to
regret to inform you
that i am a highly qualified candidate
for this position.
due to an overwhelming number
of courses presentations papers articles
book chapters evals letters
service commitments
applications received
we are not able to offer
the health insurance i need
though a paycheck would be nice, too.

i actually enjoy teaching students
and i am desperately ready to
keep your application on file
and develop four entirely new preps
if that’s what you need
for subsequent searches.
we wish you the best of nameless luck
or blessings as may be appropriate
in your future endeavors
like scholarly publishing cover letters
filling out human resources forms
and producing beautiful spreadsheets
the color of despair (red).

we enjoyed our electronic and/or physical interaction and
given your excellent achievements we are sure
you will find success
in again mustering your small army
of sample syllabi and teaching philosophies.
i promise if you hire me
i will do a good job and profess
publish and serve with top marks
and also win the peace prize
and compose questionable poetry.

best,
best wishes,
sincerely,
and again with regrets,
and absurdly undying hope,

email auto signature.

—Naomi Gades