

2010 Senate Leadership and Board Representative Candidates' Campaign Statements

Paul Barnett (Camden Student Member of the Executive Committee): Paul Barnett is currently a junior at Rutgers University in Camden. He is a biology major with a theater minor. He currently serves as a Representative for Camden's School of Arts & Sciences and is looking to have a service detail of more magnitude. He chaired two committees last year, one of which required him to organize an event open to all students. He also served on many committees actively. He really wants to serve his home campus and the university at large more.

Ray Bodnar (Alumnus Member of the Executive Committee): I would like to serve as a member of the executive committee representing the RUAA. I have been a member for several years and am very interested in university governance.

Natalie Borisovets (Newark Faculty Member of the Executive Committee): Having been an active member of the University Senate since 1988 (Chair 1993-1996; Chair Educational Policy 1997-2000; Chair, Instruction, Curricula & Advising 2000-), I believe that I have a good sense of where the Senate has been and where we would like to be. While the Newark campus is "home," I'm actually a member of a faculty that crosses all three campuses. As such I believe that I also bring a unique university-wide perspective to the Senate. The Executive Committee, as the group that guides and sets the agenda, is a vital component of this unique shared governance body. I am privileged to have been given the opportunity to participate and contribute to that group; I hope that you grant me the opportunity to continue.

Leslie Fishbein (New Brunswick Faculty Member of the Executive Committee): In the past as a member of New Brunswick Faculty Council or as a University Senator, I have initiated and worked for proposals that have been or are currently in the process of being implemented to improve University life. These proposals include a streamlined and flexible system of faculty reporting in place of the annual faculty survey, deaconal evaluation, and a more viable and equitable process of handling issues of academic integrity than the present University Code.

While it is heartening to witness progress on these issues, if Rutgers is to achieve genuine shared governance, we need to make University Senate more effective as an advisory body by insuring that its advice commands more attention and respect. We should consider reporting our activities directly to the *Targum* so that they are reported promptly, accurately, and in terms of their significance to the Rutgers community, and we should attempt to establish closer ties to the Board of Governors and to the Board of Trustees. If we fail to publicize what we do more effectively, we risk becoming nothing more than a debating society without an audience and without any impact despite our good work.

If elected to the Executive Committee, I would work to make sure that whatever structural changes are implemented at Rutgers are compatible with keeping the intimacy necessary to foster learning communities and close relations between students and the faculty and administrators at Rutgers. I also would work to create guidelines and special deanships for dealing with jointly appointed faculty. We have substantially increased the number of joint appointments, and many of these new faculty members are being overworked by taking on committee and administrative responsibilities in two or more departments or programs only to find themselves being evaluated for promotion and tenure by conflicting and often unclear standards. If we are to continue making such appointments, we should figure out how to nurture these faculty rather than simply how to exploit them. We also need to improve the way in which we integrate new faculty into Rutgers, to make that orientation experience more welcoming and useful to them and far less bureaucratic. We need to work as well on a system of phased retirement and retirement incentives that provides departments with the flexibility that they need to retain faculty where needed, as in highly specialized fields or those whose grants are essential to departmental research while encouraging those who wish to retire to do so at an appropriate pace so that funds can be freed to hire new faculty to invigorate teaching at Rutgers.

My suggestions for improvement always have stressed practicality, flexibility, and working through consensus to build a greater sense of community at Rutgers. If I am elected, my contributions to the Executive Committee would be my wide interdisciplinary experience as appointed in or affiliated with five different academic departments, my ability to build consensus to achieve effective governance, and my plain common sense. Tom Paine claimed that common sense and genuinely democratic governance were the recipe for trying times. As Rutgers confronts a budget crisis and the challenges it poses to the university's core mission, I offer you common sense solutions.

Peter Gillett (New Brunswick Faculty Member of the Executive Committee): I was excited to be elected last year to serve as the New Brunswick Faculty Representative on the University Senate's Executive Committee, and am thrilled to have been nominated to stand for re-election this year; I welcome the opportunity to serve. After 18 years based in the UK,

working at all levels including partner in two major international accounting practices, I returned to academia, obtained my PhD, and have been on the faculty of the Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick since 1996. I have been an active member of Senate for four terms; throughout this time, I have also served on the University Structure and Governance Committee, during periods busy, for example, dealing with the Vagelos report and its ramifications, and with our response to "Transforming Undergraduate Education: Report of the Task Force on Undergraduate Education at Rutgers-New Brunswick/Piscataway." This year I have served as Co-Chair of that committee.

Additionally, I have served on the New Brunswick Faculty Council and its Curriculum Committee, and am the Faculty Advisor to the Rutgers University Glee Club and the Rutgers University Kirkpatrick Choir. Within my own unit, I am serving a third term as Faculty Secretary and Chair of the Committee on Rules of Procedure; like most faculty members, I have served on a large number of other committees, including Technology Policy, Recruitment, and Curriculum, and was for five years coordinator of our PhD program. All three of my children have attended Rutgers, giving me considerable experience as a Rutgers parent, and different insights into student life and the infamous RU Screw. I am confident that all the candidates for Executive Committee bring to the table multiple skills and talents; foremost among my own potential contributions, I believe, are the ability both to see the big picture and to attend painstakingly to small but significant details; steadfast refusal to put popularity or public opinion ahead of the need to speak truth and do right as I see them; rich experience of committee work both within Rutgers and in the business community; extensive and wide-ranging commitment to Rutgers (on two campuses) and to the Senate; determination to do what I can to help make Rutgers the best university it can be; detailed working knowledge of technology and accounting; and a British sense of humor (and who knows but that I shall need it . . .). Perhaps idealistically, I believe that Senate should not be a forum where faculty, students, administrators and other constituencies assemble to defend their turf, but rather a place where all of us participate in advising the President and the Board of Governors of our considered view as to what is best for the university. If elected, I undertake to work assiduously on your behalf towards this goal. I shall greatly appreciate your vote and look forward to serving you again.

Ann Gould (Vice Chair): I am a third-term Senator representing the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. For the past seven years I have been honored to serve as co-chair of the Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee. During this time, my esteemed co-chair Paul Panayotatos and I have worked with this committee to address issues associated with e-mail privacy, faculty voting rights, the evaluation of deans, the annual faculty survey, phased retirement, annual faculty terms and governance, academic freedom for contingent faculty, psychological emergencies, and tuition remission for PTLs. The past four academic years I have had the opportunity to serve on the Senate Executive committee. I have found my time with the Senate to be interesting and challenging, and I hope that my efforts have contributed to the welfare of the faculty, students, and staff of this University. I look forward to continued participation on the Senate as Vice-Chair, and I appreciate your consideration and vote.

Paul Leath (New Brunswick Faculty Member of the Executive Committee): I am a faculty member in the SAS Department of Physics and Astronomy and have been the Vice-Chair of the Senate for the last few years. For several years I enjoyed being the Senate's Faculty Representative to the Rutgers Board of Governors as important issues were considered, such as the restructuring of undergraduate education on the New Brunswick Campus. Prior to that I was co-chair of the Faculty Affairs and Personnel Committee when important Senate resolutions and University policies were developed (such as "Best Practices in Assessment of Teaching", "Faculty Departmental Voting Rights", "Health Care Insurance for Graduate Students", "Evaluation of Administrators by Faculty and Students", and "Workplace Violence Policy"). I was the Chair of the New Brunswick Faculty Council as their resolutions concerning the Task Force recommendations on the restructuring of undergraduate education on the New Brunswick Campus were developed. I have, over the years, served on very many University committees. In addition, from 1978-1992 I was in the University administration, and from 1987-1992 I was the Provost of the New Brunswick Campus. Most recently, I was for nine years the Chair of the SAS Department of Physics and Astronomy.

I designed and recently taught our large introductory physics course for humanities and social science students, and am very interested in effective teaching and student learning, and supportive of the many efforts to improve student life on the campus. This fall I shall be teaching the physics course for students in the College of Pharmacy. My research is in theoretical condensed matter physics. I am presently away on leave doing research at the University of Oxford in England for the Spring Semester 2010, but shall be returning to Rutgers in the fall semester.

Finally, I believe strongly in shared governance of Universities, and that there is a vital place for the Senate and its voice in the University. If elected to the Executive Committee, I will work to see that important issues and resolutions are brought before the Senate, and will vigorously support its resolutions before the administration and the Board of Governors. The Senate is and should continue to be a respected, vital, and exciting governing body in the University, and an essential place for the voice of its students faculty, staff, and alumni.

Joseph Markert (Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees): Joe Markert has been associated with Rutgers University Business School as a PTL, Adjunct or Annual Instructor since 1969. He currently is a full time instructor with a 3 year contract in RBS. During these years he has served as a member of the AAUP PTL Executive Committee (15 years), the New Brunswick Faculty Council (4 years), Faculty advisor to three student organizations, member of the Senate Faculty and Administration Personnel Committee (five years) and was just re-elected to another 3 year term as one of the RBS representatives on the Rutgers Senate. During this past year Joe initiated a Senate charge to clearly define the role of non-tenure track faculty in the Senate and was active in many RBS committees. If elected to the Board of Trustees Joe will work to broaden his and the Senate's understanding of the university and its complexity.

Daniel McArdle (Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees): This upcoming year will be my fourth term on the Senate. For the last two years I have served as the Camden Student Member of the Executive Committee. Additionally this past year it has been my pleasure to serve as the inaugural Co-Chair of the Senate Research and Graduate and Professional Education Committee. I have enjoyed this experience and have learned a great deal through my close connections with the other members of the Camden Campus as well as my fellow students, faculty, staff, and administrative members of the Senate. I feel as though I have more to give in this position and I would be honored to continue serving the Rutgers community as the Graduate Representative to the Board of Trustees.

Kenneth McKeever (New Brunswick Faculty Member of the Executive Committee): I am running for the Executive Committee as incoming chair of the New Brunswick Faculty Council. I have a strong belief that we as faculty members have a responsibility to participate in faculty governance at the departmental, college, and university levels. We have no excuse for apathy and our future depends on positive input and active involvement in the planning for changes that may occur at all levels of the university. To that end, for several years I have served on the NBFC and the Senate as a representative from the Equine Science Center and the Department of Animal Sciences providing input for my fellow faculty, staff, students, and alumni from the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. My research, teaching, and outreach efforts are multi-departmental I am also actively involved with the Department of Exercise and Sport Studies, a department with students from SEBS and SAS. I am honored to be nominated for today's election and ask for your vote to serve on the Executive Committee so as to continue to provide positive input to facilitate action that will benefit all constituencies represented here by the Rutgers University Senate.

Jonathan Nycz (Student Representative to the Board of Governors): I am Jonathan Nycz and I am running for Student Representative to the Board of Governors. This is going to be my third year on the University Senate and in my time, I have been a dedicated member. From serving on the Senate's Executive Committee, to working in ASRAC on the Interim Academic Integrity Policy, I have done my best to assure a better Rutgers Community. Outside of Rutgers, I am on the State Board of the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority where I have worked to pass over 1 billion dollars in bonds in order to help finance student loans and have worked to increase the State's Tuition Aid Grant's and access to other Higher Education Programs. I want to bring the same dedication to the Board of Governor's that I have had at Senate and in my other activities and work to make sure Rutgers remains one of the best universities in the country. So please vote or me, Jonathan Nycz for Student Representative to the Board of Governors! I won't let Rutgers down!

Paul Panayotatos (Chairperson): Most of my committee involvement has been with the Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee, which, with the exception of the periods that I was on leave, I have co-chaired continuously since 2002. Long-serving committee members have been instrumental in formulating a series of recommendations that have had substantial ramifications. Limiting the examples of our output to the years of synergistic and enjoyable co-chairmanship with Ann Gould we have made recommendations that were adopted by the University, among others, to do away with the 4-year limitation on reappointment, to transform some PTL lines to full time, to make the Clinical Track more widely available, to establish university-wide procedures for Chair Appointments by Deans and to institute a working process for the evaluation of Deans by faculty, staff and students (the latter twice).

My involvement in shared governance began in 1993 in the New Brunswick Faculty Council (NBFC) where I have been serving practically continuously for 17 years. I have also been chair of the NBFC Personnel Policy Committee since 1998. I have been on the NBFC Executive Cabinet for about a decade. I served as NBFC Chair, as well, and was lucky to have Martha Cotter for Vice Chair at the time. I was first elected to the University Senate in 1995 and have served on the Executive Committee either as an elected member or *ex officio* as chair of the University Senate (with Sam Rabinowitz as Vice Chair). I was blessed, or cursed, to be elected as chair of the Senate shortly before president Lawrence resigned and while Governor McCreavy tried to impose on a leaderless Rutgers the so-called Vagelos plan of reorganization. The

University Senate made headlines by being the first voice to say “*not so fast*” to the governor. We were able to hold fast until Dr. McCormick was elected president, took over the fight and averted a potential disaster for Rutgers. I am afraid that expertise developed during that time may be called for in the coming year once again. I believe my proudest moment at Rutgers came when I relayed the thanks of the Board of Governors to the members of the Senate. I stayed over as chair for another year, and did not seek a third term because a family health crisis forced me to take a leave of absence. Since then I have been ramping up my involvement and began serving again on the Executive Committee. I am now ready to devote the necessary time and energy to again serve you on my third year as chair.

Samuel Rabinowitz (Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees): It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as chair of the University Senate for the last 3 years. I have had the opportunity through this experience to meet and work with many esteemed colleagues within the Senate, around all campuses, and on the Boards of Rutgers University. I wish to continue my contribution by serving as a Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees. It is important to have representation on the various Board committees and I believe that I have been and would continue to be a positive and effective voice in this regard. Thanks for giving me a moment of your busy day (and hopefully your vote as well)!

Lester Sabo (Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees): My name is Lester Sabo and I am running for Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees. I am entering my second year on the University Senate and in the same time I have been a dedicated member of the Busch Campus Council and Rutgers University Student Assembly. I have served as a Class of 2011 Representative as well as a RUSA representative for Busch Campus Council. In my time I have worked to access the opinion of my peers and worked with various student representatives to effectively communicate student ideas. As a student studying cell biology of Rutgers, I have participated in an REU at the University of Wisconsin where I accessed the toxicity of nanoscale titanium dioxide. This summer I will be participating in an international REU in China where I will once again be working with the bio-nanointerface. I would like to bring the same skill and patience that I have utilized in my research opportunities to the Board of Trustees. I wish to continue the Rutgers tradition of “*Jersey Roots and Global Reach*” and wish to keep Rutgers students and graduates as some of the most competitive students in the nation. Please vote for me, Lester Sabo for student representative to the Board of Trustees.

Menahem Spiegel (Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees): I am honored to be considered as a faculty representative to Rutgers' Board of Trustees. I have been a University Senator for five years, and have also chaired the Senate's Budget and Finance Committee for the past four years. In those capacities, I have enjoyed exploring some interesting issues of fundamental importance to the ways Rutgers operates, and have also had the opportunity to hear viewpoints from faculty and others from all areas represented in the Senate. I believe those experiences, and my 12 years as a faculty member in the School of Business-Newark, coupled with my professional background and personal interests, would make me a capable member of the Board of Trustees. I hope you will agree, and I ask for your votes. Thank you.

Karen Thompson (Part-Time Lecturer/Annual Appointee Faculty Member of the Executive Committee): After 31 years teaching as a PTL at RU, 21 of which were spent officially representing PTLs within the AAUP, I have developed the detailed background and the thick skin needed to advocate for this constituency. The overuse and abuse of contingent faculty continues to be a key issue in addressing quality education concerns, in re-emphasizing teaching along side research and in seeking equitable economic priorities. I would like the opportunity to continue working with students, administrators, full-time faculty and staff colleagues in pursuing the best for all at Rutgers.

Mark Vodak (Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees): Having been elected by the University Senate and given the opportunity and privilege to represent Rutgers faculty on the Board of Trustees (BOT) for the past several years, I am seeking the opportunity and privilege to again join the Board of Trustees in the role of Faculty Representative. I feel the experience that I bring to the position is of particular advantage and value to the Senate. I am currently serving my fifth three-year term in the Senate and have represented the Senate and faculty each year during each of those terms. The BOT is a large, diverse body, and my years of participation have enabled me to meet and know many, if not most, of the trustees. Subsequently, and just as importantly, the trustees recognize me and my role. As a result, I am in a strong position to effectively perform the duties of the Faculty Representative: representing the Senate and faculty, providing input from the Senate, and reporting BOT actions to the Senate. I respectfully request your support and vote for Board of Trustees Faculty Representative for the coming year. Thank you.