

Rutgers University
Senate Budget and Finance Committee Report and Recommendations
on Charge S-0708, Inter Campus Shuttle Service
between the Camden, Newark and New Brunswick Campuses

April 2008

1. The Charge

S-0708 - InterCampus Shuttle Service: Consider and make recommendations on feasibility and usefulness of University-provided, free or low-cost, daily shuttle or bus service between the Camden, Newark, and New Brunswick campuses for any persons holding valid Rutgers student or employee identification. Respond to Senate Executive Committee by February 2008. Begin discussions based on the "[Proposal to Implement Bus or Shuttle Transportation Between Camden, Newark and New Brunswick](#)" received from the Student Affairs Committee. Respond to Senate Executive Committee by April 2008.

This charge was originated by the Student Affairs Committee requesting that the Senate Executive Committee consider charging the Senate's Budget and Finance Committee to consider and to make recommendations regarding this issue.

2. Acknowledgement

This charge was dealt with extensively in several meetings of the Senate Budget and Finance Committee and in many other occasions by a designated subcommittee during the 2007/2008 academic year. Members of the Budget and Finance committee met with members of the Rutgers community for formal and informal discussions regarding this charge.

3. Recommendations

1. We do not recommend establishing a new shuttle bus service between New Brunswick and Newark.

Explanation: Given the availability and frequency of the currently existing public transportation (NJ Transit) and the bus and shuttle services provided by each campus, a new shuttle is not expected to create a significant improvement.

2. The student organizations at RU with the help of the university should cooperate with the other Colleges in New Jersey to negotiate with NJ Transit to establish lower student rates to reduce the out pocket expenses for students travel.
3. We feel that a problem exists with connecting the Camden campus to a fast transportation mode to Trenton where the NJ Transit is available. The currently available modes to commute between Camden to Trenton station are: I. The light train of Riverline; II. SEPTA trains from Philadelphia. Both options take up a significant amount of travel time.

4. The partial evidence currently available to us cannot support a recommendation to initiate a new shuttle service between Camden and Trenton. Therefore, we recommend that the administration study the costs and the benefits involved with the new shuttle as well as any of the “red tape”. For example, such a study should determine the minimum number of student riders necessary to justify the additional shuttle service and the likelihood of an ongoing sufficient demand in the future.
5. A key policy decision to be considered is whether students should move to the information location, or should the information be moved to the students’ location? Rutgers University prides itself for the high quality research and teaching centers on all three campuses. We recommend that the university should facilitate the information follow to its student’s location. These suggests the following two recommendations:

I: If there is sufficient demand for a course on any campus, the respective department should offer it on that campus.

II: In the absence of sufficient demand we recommend that video-conferencing should be implemented for courses with low demand on more than one campus. Rutgers should also improve the infrastructure that will facilitate these arrangements.