

**Rutgers University Senate**  
**Report of the Chair, 9/24/10, Paul Panayotatos**

Welcome everyone -- senators and non-senators alike. My name is Paul Panayotatos, and I am chairing the University Senate this academic year. I extend a special welcome to the members of our governing boards and to the honorable members of the New Jersey State Legislature. Please be kind to our version of parliamentary procedure which today is streamlined as much as possible. The agenda has only two items and has already been approved by the Senate Executive Committee on behalf of the Senate. We will defer the secretary's report and most other business until our October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Camden.

I also want to specifically welcome our new University senators. Please make it your first priority to attend the meetings of the standing committee of which you are a member. We hope to be able to provide bus transportation round-trip between New Brunswick and Camden for our October meeting, as we have in the past. Please be attentive to the emails you receive from the Senate Executive Secretary, as they are the primary communication medium outside of Senate meetings. I also direct you to visit the Senate website where all the pending charges for each committee are posted.

I believe a few words about the senate are in order. The Rutgers University Senate is a 57-year-old institution of shared governance. It has formal responsibilities as well as an advisory role to the President of the University. It also has the option of directly petitioning the Board of Governors. Over the years the Senate has tackled several issues of major importance to the operation of the university. It has dealt with some particularly thorny problems such as, in no particular order, the university's harassment policy, the student code of conduct, divestiture of all Rutgers holdings in South Africa during apartheid, graduation requirements, the grading system, the change of the name of the university to "Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey", parking, promotions and tenure, several University reorganizations, the Faculty Handbook, restructuring of the University Senate, budget reductions, the College of Applied and Professional Studies, the reorganization of undergraduate education, evaluation of deans, appointments of chairs, and many more. In 2002, during a period of transition and uncertainty in the university administration, the Senate assumed a leadership role in formulating a position on the governor's proposal for restructuring public higher education in NJ that became known as the Vagelos Plan.

The University Senate may have a visibility problem shared by all bodies whose primary function is to avert disasters: when they operate in their most efficient mode you don't hear much about them. For this reason, we have assembled a task force to explore ways to boost awareness of, and participation in, shared governance. The task force will be meeting throughout this year and beyond, if necessary.

This is the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Address to the University Community by President McCormick, the first one being in 2003. Since then the Senate has issued some 80 reports and resolutions. These are the result of careful work, the bulk of which is carried out in committee. Committees have a lot of latitude. In addition to the charges formally issued to them, they can take on any other issue they wish, within the constraints of their standing charge and the Senate's overall mission.

I would like to introduce you the chairs of the standing committees who will say a few words about the charges that are on their docket. [Introduces Senate committee chairs, as follows:]

Academic Standards, Regulations and Admissions Committee

Cotter, Martha,

Schantz, Daniel, Co-chairs

Budget and Finance Committee

Spiegel, Menahem, Chair

Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee

Gould, Ann, Also Vice Chair of the University Senate

Panayotatos, Paul, Co-Chair

Instruction, Curricula and Advising Committee

Borisovets, Natalie, Chair

Research, and Graduate and Professional Education Committee

Cooper, Barbara,

Swartley-McArdle, Daniel, Co-Chair

Student Affairs Committee

Rabinowitz, Sam,

Helgeson, Adam, Co-Chair

University Structure and Governance Committee

Gillett, Peter, Chair

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the staff officer of the Senate, and the person who provides continuity and documents and maintains its institutional memory, namely Ken Swalagin, executive secretary of the senate. Linda Mickelsen ensures the smooth operation of our meetings and not only.

This concludes my report.