

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY  
**RUTGERS**

University Senate  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
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August 26, 1998

TO: Douglas Blair, At-Large New Brunswick Faculty Senator  
Natalie Borisovets, Former Senate Chair  
Emily Carey, SCILS Graduate Student Senator  
Kenneth Carlson, Former Senate Chair  
David Jefferson Harris, Jr., Board of Trustees Chair  
Carl Kirshner, Dean of Rutgers College  
Robert Kubey, SCILS Faculty Senator  
Paul Lachance, Former Senate Chair  
Paul Leath, Faculty, Former Provost  
Richard Levao, Board of Governors Chair  
John Ruvolo, Undergraduate Student Senator  
Barry Qualls, FAS-NB Associate Dean  
Maryann Scoloveno, Nursing-Newark Faculty  
Antonia Tripolitis, Former Senate Chair

FROM: Ken Swalagin  
Executive Secretary of the University Senate



SUBJECT: **Senate Revitalization Committee Membership**

On behalf of the Rutgers University Senate Executive Committee, I am writing to request your participation in a project of utmost importance to the Senate and to shared governance at Rutgers: the Senate Revitalization Committee.

Last year, in-depth discussions of the current status and effectiveness of the University Senate took place in its Executive Committee meetings, resulting in the realization that, if the Senate is to fulfill its intended role as a community-wide forum and vehicle for shared governance, the increasing apathy, inertia, and misconceptions which plague it must be addressed.

The proposed membership of this *ad hoc* Senate Revitalization Committee is essentially a "wish list" of those members of the Rutgers community whose backgrounds, expertise and viewpoints could best help transform the Senate into the deliberative body it was created to be.

The charge to the Revitalization Committee is attached. It is hoped that suggestions and proposals in response to the charge can be formulated, considered and implemented within six to eight months after committee work begins in September 1998. I will serve as secretary to the committee, and as a member, working closely with the group to establish a timetable which is as convenient as possible for all involved.

Please contact me by phone or mail at the Senate office (see letterhead), or by e-mail at [swalagin@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:swalagin@rci.rutgers.edu) to discuss this request. Many thanks for considering this invitation to become a member of the *ad hoc* Senate Revitalization Committee.

### **Charge to the *Ad Hoc* University Senate Revitalization Committee**

Examine the tradition, practices, policies, and goals of the University Senate, and make recommendations for improvements, particularly in the broad areas of:

- Increasing member involvement and participation in the Senate;
- Promoting effective fulfillment of the responsibilities assigned to the Senate by its enabling regulations, and formulating appropriate changes to the relevant regulations and/or provisions of the Senate Handbook and bylaws;
- Refining the relationships between the Senate, the University's governing boards, its various constituencies, and the University administration;
- Soliciting from the University community those issues which should be parsed by the Senate and its standing committees;
- Emphasizing the responsibilities of Senators to their constituents, and to the Senate and University; and
- Enhancing the standing and public image of the University Senate, both within and outside of Rutgers University.

The Revitalization Committee shall be composed of Senators and non-senators representing faculty, administrators, alumni and students, who should strive to obtain input from as many concerned, relevant sources as possible in addressing this charge.