

2009 Senate Candidates' Campaign Statements

In alphabetical order

Paul Barnett: Paul Barnett is currently a sophomore 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 this 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.

Raymond Bodnar: I would like to serve again as a member of the Executive Committee because my 50-year career as a research and continuing education faculty person should bring a varied perspective. As an alumnus I also experienced the growth of Rutgers from an all-male college to the diversified state university and land grant institution it is today.

Natalie Borisovets: 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.

Sherry Burrell: I joined the Rutgers-Camden Faculty in 2004. I am active member both the Camden Faculty Senate (2007-2008 & 2008-2009) and the University Senate (2008-2009). This past year in the University Senate, I served on the Faculty Affairs and Personnel Committee. I joined the University Senate to ensure that the Camden faculty, staff, and students had a "voice" that could be heard on pressing university issues, policies, and regulations. Members of the University Senate are going to face an extremely challenging year ahead due to the forecasted university budget deficit and I can truly say that I am up for the challenge! If presented with the opportunity, I would be honored to further represent the Camden Campus as a member of Executive Committee. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Martha Cotter: I believe I continue to do an excellent job of representing the opinions of faculty, in particular, and of the Senate more generally to the BOG and would like to continue for one more year, given the very difficult financial situation in which the University finds itself. After this year, I do not plan to run again for this position.

Shashi K. Dholandas: While an undergraduate at Rutgers, I served on the University Senate for three years. At the beginning of my third year I was elected by the senate to serve as the Student Representative to the Board of Governors. Working with my colleagues Franklin Turner and Cait Innerfield, then Graduate and Undergraduate Student Board of Trustees Representatives, we successfully worked with the administration to improve students' access to the decision makers of this University and to improve facilities like the Asian American Cultural Center. Most importantly, we created channels of communication among the student governing associations at all three of Rutgers campuses - Newark, New Brunswick and Camden.

Leslie Fishbein: I have a long and varied history of service to Rutgers and would bring that record and my experience as a faculty member in two departments: American Studies and Jewish Studies and as an affiliated member of Women's and Gender Studies, History, and Cinema Studies to service on the Executive Committee. I was an FAS-New Brunswick Representative to University Senate from 2003-2006 and currently am an SAS-New Brunswick Representative to the Senate, serving from 2007-2010, having served on what now is termed the Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee during each of my tenures on the Senate. I chaired the Provost's Committee to Promote Academic Integrity from 1992-1995 and served on the Committee on Academic Integrity from 2004-2007. I presently serve as a member of the SAS Curriculum Committee, 2008-2010 and on the SAS Committee on Appointments and Promotions to Associate Professor, 2007-2009. I believe that if the Senate is to serve effectively as an advisory body to the administration, especially in this era of budget stringency, we need not only to craft the best possible policy recommendations but also to publicize our activities more vigorously and to reach out to a wider constituency among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the members of the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees.

Peter R. Gillett: I am excited to have been nominated to stand for election to the University Senate's Executive Committee, and 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 three terms and am now beginning my fourth; 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."

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 beginning 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.

Ann Gould: I am a third-term Senator representing the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. For the past six years I have been honored to serve as co-chair of the Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee. During this time, my co-chair 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, and most recently, tuition remission for PTLs. The past three 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 Executive Committee, and I appreciate your consideration and vote.

Victor Greenhut: I have served as a New Brunswick Faculty member of the University Senate's Executive Committee for the past two years, with about two decades total service in various roles on the Senate. I feel it is my responsibility to participate in shared governance as a senior member of the faculty (38 years) and as a loyal graduate of Rutgers University (MS, D. Phil, PhD). Familiarity with both academic faculty and student concerns has been coupled with experience in academic administration (Assoc. Dean GSNB, Assist. Dean Engineering, Dept. Exec. Officer). I try to be open-minded and supportive of policies and procedures which advance all of our people and our mission for teaching, mentoring, service and scholarship. Thank you for your support!

Eric Kaplan: I have had the privilege of serving as the student representative to the Board of Trustees and a Senator from SAS and the College Avenue Campus this past year. During this time I have developed a strong relationship with the Board of Trustees, and contributed student input into the governance of the university. I hope to continue my work next year as the student representative to the Board of Governors. I have enjoyed my time on the University Senate immensely, and have most enjoyed learning about the other campuses. I also serve on the College Avenue Council and Rutgers University Student Assembly. On RUSA I serve on the Legislative Affairs Committee where I have advocated for more funding from the State. I am also a student in SAS studying political science and history, and hope to pursue a career in urban and regional planning. I hope that you will give me the opportunity to continue to build on my work representing the students and the Senate.

Harriet Katz: Clinical Professor Harriet N. Katz, Camden-Law, supervises advanced law students in Practice Externship, teaches courses in interviewing, counseling, and negotiation, and provides leadership in the planning and teaching of legal skills education as Director of Lawyering Programs. Her scholarship has been in the field of legal pedagogy. She has served on the University Senate for one year, and is a member of the Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee. Her oldest son graduated from Rutgers College, New Brunswick, in 2003, and another son is now a sophomore. "I welcome the opportunity to be more deeply involved in planning and implementing the mission of the University Senate, which is to be a voice for all in our University from every campus."

Paul Leath: I am a faculty member in the SAS Department of Physics and Astronomy. 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, and the Vagelos plan for merging the higher education institutions in New Jersey. Prior to that I had been a co-chair of the Faculty Affairs and Personnel Committee when important Senate resolutions and University policies have been 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", "FASIP Awards-Making Public the Recipients and Amounts Thereof", and "Workplace Violence Policy"). In 2005-06 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 1978-1987 I was the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs in the Sciences, and from 1987-1992 I was the Provost of the New Brunswick Campus. And most recently, I was for nine years the Chair of the FAS Department of Physics and Astronomy. I presently am teaching a large introductory physics course designed for humanities and social science students. My research is in theoretical condensed matter physics, specifically the properties of disordered materials. I shall be away doing research at Oxford University for the Spring Semester 2010. 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, 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, important, and exciting governing body in the University, as well as a vital place for the voice of its students and faculty.

Justine Hernandez Levine: As a "freshman" Senator and member of the Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee, I have worked collaboratively to make recommendations on issues such as teaching tracks for tenure, tuition remission for part-time faculty members, professional development, and evaluation of deans/administrators. As director of the undergraduate research office, a former assistant dean/undergraduate advisor in the liberal arts colleges at New Brunswick, instructor, and current co-convenor of the Faculty Learning Community, I have a deep understanding of curriculum and instruction issues. Working directly with hundreds of undergraduates offers me insight into student affairs; as an alumna of both undergraduate and doctoral programs at the university, as well, I bring a unique perspective to conversations about policy and program development. As a supervisor, I have been responsive to staff concerns in a university environment. My broad experiences and my ability to both listen and dialogue make me well-suited to represent staff members on the Executive Committee, where I feel that I can build bridges and make a positive contribution to our forward movement in challenging times.

Daniel J. McArdle: As a dedicated and diligent student of Rutgers, I am honored to be considered for the Graduate Representative to the Board of Trustees. I have served on the RUCSGA in executive leadership roles for five years, and this will be my second term as a Senator. This past year I served as the Camden Executive Senator and as a liaison to the Budget and Finance Committee. I will be continuing my studies in the Biology Graduate program and would love the opportunity to continue to serve Rutgers University. Thank you for your time.

Tricia Nolfi: As a Staff Senator for the past three years, I look forward to the opportunity to continue my service on the Senate Executive Committee. This past year I have contributed to the dialogue of the Committee by sharing my perspective as a member of the university staff and by expressing my ideas and concerns. Additionally, I have served as co-chair of the University Structure and Governance Committee (USGC), an appointment I have held since February 2007. In this capacity, I worked collaboratively with faculty, students, alumni, and administrators on the USGC and other Senate committees to address a wide range of issues. Through my diverse professional experiences at Rutgers, currently serving in University Human Resources and previously at Rutgers College and as an Instructor in SCILS, I have become familiar with the administrative, academic, and student functions of the university. As a current graduate student I have further experience and perspective regarding students' challenges and needs. This broad perspective along with my current Senate experience would prove beneficial to the Executive Committee.

Jonathan Nycz: [No statement submitted.]

Paul Panayotatos: I was first elected to the University Senate in 1995. I was chair of the Senate in a time of transition, with three different Presidents of the University and when the term "Vagelos Commission" became part of our vocabulary. With the exception of the periods that I was on leave, I have co-chaired the FAPC continuously since 2002. 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 facilitate the transformation of 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 and students. We are presenting two more resolutions at the last Senate meeting on Psychological Emergencies where we propose a Mental Health Awareness Campaign and an improvement to the University's Academic Freedom language. This year we have not shied away from proposing no change and supporting the status quo when we thought that the systems worked adequately. I have served on and off the Executive Committee either as an elected member or ex officio as chair of the University Senate. I ask for your vote to serve on the Executive Committee for the coming year.

Samuel Rabinowitz: "The Rutgers University Senate is the sole institution that represents the entire community of faculty, students, staff, administrators, and alumni to the president of Rutgers University (hereinafter referred to as "the president") and to its Board of Governors." This sentence is the first one found in the Preamble to the Handbook of the Rutgers University Senate and it captures the essence of why I value and am willing to continue to serve in the position of Chairperson. Without this body which, at its best, exemplifies shared governance, I would not have had the opportunity to meet and work with so many esteemed colleagues and fellow stakeholders from units around the multiple locations of Rutgers University over much

of my 25 years in Camden. I believe that, working together, we can grow a better Rutgers for ourselves and those who follow us. Thanks for giving me a moment of your busy day!

Nat Schaffner: I have spent the last two years at Rutgers doing a lot of "college" things. I joined a fraternity, switched majors twice, did a semester of unsuccessful research, got a really cool job working for the computer science department, attempted to co-found a society that already existed, and among other things, became heavily involved in student government. I have been involved in a few different governing councils, including the Barr Hall RHA, the Engineering Governing Council, the Busch Campus Council, and the Rutgers University Student Assembly. I held a chair position on the EGC, and represented BCC on the RUSA constitution restructuring committee and Student Fee Advisory Committee, and served as a senator on the Academic Standards and Regulations Committee. I would like to continue my involvement this year in a more directed and centralized role by representing the students of the New Brunswick campus on the executive committee of the senate. I feel that my experience and involvement in student government and varied on-campus activities place me in a well qualified position to represent the twenty-eight thousand undergraduates of Rutgers New Brunswick, instead of just the students in engineering or affiliated with Busch Campus.

Christina Schramke: Over the past two academic school years I have been a member of the College Ave. Council, this past year I also served as a University Senator from the New Brunswick Campus. This upcoming year I will continue to serve and represent the students of College Avenue as a Senator, and I feel I am an excellent candidate for the Executive Committee. I have learned a lot while serving on the council, and have many accomplishments, along with the other representatives. I am a knowledgeable representative of my constituents, and plan on continuing to represent them as I have in the past. I have reached out to hundreds of Rutgers students in order to find out what issues are most important on our campus. I truly enjoy serving as a University Senator, I love having the opportunity to represent other students and letting their opinions be voiced among such a great body at Rutgers. I hope to become a member of the Executive Committee and continue to work on such significant issues, and to represent the student voice for the year to come.

Josh Slavin: My involvement in student government, from University Senator to campus council president, has been a central part of my college experience and is one that I hope to continue as the next student representative to the Board of Trustees. I am proud of what I have accomplished so far, such as working with the School of Communication and Information to add public speaking classes open to all students and holding town halls with administrators to better inform students, and hope to bring that experience to this position. I look forward to working with the Senate again and ardently representing the interests of the University community to the Board of Trustees if so honored with the opportunity.

Menahem Spiegel: I am honored to be considered as a faculty representative to Rutgers' Board of Trustees. I have been a University Senator for four years, and have also chaired the Senate's Budget and Finance Committee for the past three 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 11 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.

John Stein: I would like to be considered for the NB student Rep on the Executive Committee based on my leadership qualities. This coming school year will be my second year representing the G. H. Cook campus as a senator and third year on the SCC Council. Along with being involved with student government, I am also the Student Unit Manager at the Neilson Dining Hall. I have always been a hard worker and dedicated to the positions I hold. I have worked hard to voice the students concerns and opinions as a student leader. I am also always trying to improve my leadership and serving on the executive committee will allow me to do so.

Karen Thompson: After 30 years teaching as a PTL at RU, 20 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: 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. Next academic year I will begin 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.

Kevin Wild: [No statement submitted.]