

2013-14 Senate Candidates' Campaign Statements

In alphabetical order

Amita Avadhani (Newark Faculty Member of the Executive Committee): Shared Governance has been my motto for years and this is a unique opportunity to exhibit shared governance while UMDNJ and Rutgers are about to join hands and march collaboratively towards a shared goal of enhancing higher education in the state. I am honored to be selected a senator to represent my school and would be even more honored to be part of the executive committee. Together we can make a difference.

Robert Barraco (Alumnus Member of the Executive Committee): I have served as Alumni Senator Representative to the Executive Committee for the last two years. I have had much experience in dealing with issues before the committee and, I believe, have represented alumni well in those issues. Collegial relationships and an understanding of how the Committee works and the issues before it are several of the advantages of my repeating as Alumni Senator Representative. In addition, I have served on the Alumni Leaders Council and as Co-Chair of the Student Affairs Committee. We have accomplished much in the past several years on the Student Affairs Committee and are embarking on even larger tasks moving forward. I have brought issues raised in the Alumni Caucus to the attention of the Alumni Leaders Council, the RUAA Board and within the Strategic Planning process. I have been very active in that process, attending the retreat, focus group and a personal interview by the BCG staff. I truly have a passion for my alma mater and thoroughly enjoy serving in this capacity. If reelected, I will give my best to serve the alumni and all of the Rutgers Community with that same passion.

Robert Boikess (New Brunswick Faculty Member of the Executive Committee): During my 45 years at Rutgers, it has been very exciting for me to have been part of its transformation from a sleepy little place to a major AAU public research university. Student and faculty governance has played a vital role in our transformation and will continue to play a vital role in our future development. My commitment to participate actively in building a great university that truly is a university of its faculty and students is as strong as it ever has been. My commitment to fighting for student and faculty rights is stronger than ever, because these times require it. As a member of the Senate for more than 30 years, as a member of the New Brunswick Faculty Council from its creation, as a member of countless committee whose charges ranged from parking to athletics even to academics, and as an active leader in collective bargaining, I have learned a great deal. I have learned how things work; I have learned how to get things done; I have learned what matters. Now is a critical time for Rutgers. I ask you for the opportunity to use what I've learned and experienced to work with the new leadership to set the agenda that will help us all become the very best we can be.

Natalie Borisovets (Newark Faculty Member of the Executive Committee): I've been an active member of the University Senate since 1988. In that time I have served as Senate Chair, as Faculty Representative to the Board of Governors and Trustees, as a member of numerous Senate working groups, including the Undergraduate Education Steering Committee and the Task Force on Shared Governance, and currently serve as Chair of the Instruction, Curricula & Advising Committee. ICA is an active committee that has looked at important issues including the state of student advising across campuses, issues relating to course management systems, best practices for the evaluation of teaching, issues relating to online and hybrid courses, and, most recently, issues relating to the advent of massive open online courses (MOOCs).

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, one that would seem to be especially useful in this time of strategic planning and the discussion of what it means to be "One Rutgers."

The Executive Committee, as the group which 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.

Joseph Cashin (Student Representative to the Board of Governors): For the past two years I have served as a New Brunswick Senator-At-Large and I have always been an active participant in the University Senate. This past year I had the privilege to serve as the Student Representative to the Board of Governors. In this position I have remained a leader on the New Brunswick campus. I personally brought President Barchi to two student government Town Hall meetings and I organized the First Annual Rutgers Worker Appreciation Day. But the Student Representative to the Board of Governors position requires me to advocate for all students, on all three campuses, and I have embraced that role. I did this through my Senate Charge to open up a study space in the morning for commuter students. Second, I actively worked on the Yes on One campaign that resulted in the passage of a Bond that will go toward building classroom buildings. I am also the only student on the the first subcommittee of the Board of Governors and Board of Trustees to investigate the Undergraduate experience at Rutgers. I have built relationships with Board members that will hopefully result in a Staff Representative next year. I would be honored to have your vote and to serve as the Student Representative to the Board of Governors next year.

Martha Cotter (Vice Chair): I am running for Vice Chair of the Senate because I believe that my long experience in shared governance can be of considerable help to the Senate Chair in the coming year – which will clearly be a very challenging year for the Senate. For the benefit of those who don't know my background, I have been a member of the Senate since 1997, a member of the Senate Executive Committee for a number of years, co-chair of ASRAC for nine years, faculty representative to the Board of Governors for seven years, faculty representative to the Board of Trustees for two years, and Chair of the Senate from 2004-2007. I have also been a member of the New Brunswick Faculty Council since 1996, a member of its Executive Committee since 1998, and Chair of the Council in 2001-2002. I served on the search committee for the Vice President for Enrollment Management and the Steering Committee for the last Middle States accreditation; I co-chaired the Working Group on Admissions and Recruitment of the Task Force on Undergraduate Education and Chaired the Ad-hoc Committee on Academic Integrity, which wrote the current Academic Integrity Policy.

Peter R. Gillett (Chair): This week I am asking you to elect me Chair of the University Senate. It has been my privilege to serve on the Executive Committee for the last four years as the NB Faculty Representative, and I now hope to have the opportunity to extend my service.

After working at all levels including partner in two international accounting firms, I returned to academia, obtained my PhD, and joined the faculty of the Rutgers Business School–Newark and New Brunswick in 1996. I have taught and worked both in New Brunswick (where my current office is) and in Newark (where my School is based). I have been an active member of the Senate for four terms, working on the University Structure and Governance Committee (as Chair or Co-Chair for the past four years). I presented resolutions to increase staff representation on Senate, to preserve student representation through reorganization in New Brunswick, and to rebalance the size and composition of the Senate. I also worked with my committee on significant resolutions relating to the Vagelos report, the reorganization of undergraduate education in NB, the formation of a new nursing school in Camden, the preservation of Camden's place within Rutgers, enhanced shared governance at Rutgers, management of Senate business, etc. Last year, I took over from Paul Panayotatos as Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Shared Governance.

Beyond the Senate, I have served on the NB Faculty Council and its Curriculum Committee, and am the Faculty Advisor to the Rutgers University Glee Club and Kirkpatrick Choir. I am completing a fourth term as Faculty Secretary and Chair of the Committee on Rules of Procedure of my School, served on multiple other committees, coordinated our PhD program for five years, and was Academic Director of the Prudential Business Ethics Center for two years.

My three children have all graduated from Rutgers, giving me considerable experience as a Rutgers parent, and insights into student life, educational costs, and the infamous RU Screw. My potential contributions as Chair, I believe, are the ability both to see the big picture and to attend 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; wide-ranging commitment to Rutgers and to the Senate; determination to do what I can to help make Rutgers the best university it can be, for

everyone; detailed working knowledge of technology and accounting; and a British sense of humor (which I clearly need . . .). Apparently, however, I eschew brevity. Sorry.

Now, more than ever, the Senate is needed to advise the President and the Board of Governors of our collective and considered view as to what is best for the university – a vital task for the future. I plan to work assiduously on your behalf towards this goal. I have greatly enjoyed my work on Senate so far, and learned a great deal from it. I shall greatly appreciate your vote and look forward to serving you once more.

Ann Gould (Chair): I am a fourth-term Senator representing the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Since 2002, I have been honored to serve as co-Chair of the Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee (FPAC). Those of you who serve understand that the Senate does most of its "heavy lifting" in committee; over the years, my co-chair, the late Paul Panayotatos, and I worked with the FPAC to address such personnel-driven issues as academic freedom and voting rights for faculty, e-mail privacy, phased retirement, psychological emergencies, the promotion process (the ten-year-rule, annual faculty terms and governance, and promotion forms), evaluation of deans and other administrators, and tuition remission. More recently, I served on the Senate Executive Committee and for the last three terms as Vice Chair.

During my years of service to the Senate, I have given much consideration to what "shared governance" at Rutgers University means. I believe that we, those of us who make the University "work," have the responsibility to improve policy to the benefit of all. Who are the "we" in shared governance? We are the staff, the students (graduate and undergraduate), the alumni who bring perspective from beyond Rutgers, and the faculty, whether part-time, full-time, tenured, or not. Concerns common to all of us are given a voice in shared governance, and the key to success is clear communication, discussion, collaboration, transparency, and the building of collegial report and respect.

As Chair of the Senate, I would wish to continue the work and relationships established during my terms as Vice Chair. Rutgers is in the midst of monumental change, and we have great opportunities to make contributions that will endure. We all have personal goals and strive to serve our constituencies; the vitality and viability of the Senate will depend on the ability of its members to recognize its potential for positive change at Rutgers. I believe that when we participate as true partners, Rutgers University as an institution, benefits. These years of service to the Senate have been challenging, professionally satisfying, and ever interesting. As I seek to continue my service in a new role as Senate Chair, I truly appreciate your consideration and vote.

Jon Oliver (Staff Member of the Executive Committee): I humbly ask for your vote for the position of staff Senator on the Executive Committee. I have served on the Senate since 2008 and have been co-chair of the University Structure and Governance committee since 2010. I have a deep respect and genuine admiration for my fellow Senators and the work that we do daily. Each of us bring our experience, our understanding of issues and our love for this university. All of us have different life experiences and histories, all of us enrich the Senate with our dedication and commitment to be a part of positive change in a very turbulent time for higher education. I bring a combined 33 years at Rutgers as a student, staff member (for 27 years), alumni and instructor. I wake up each morning proud to be a small part of this great institution. The integration of UMDNJ and the addition of Rutgers to the Big 10 provide for many new challenges and exciting opportunities. The President's call for a new strategic vision requires all of us to participate. Together we make Rutgers the strong and diverse AAU research institution it is. I hope you will consider my candidacy and I commit myself to do my best to ensure that the mission and goals of the university are met and the state and its population well served by this remarkable institution. If elected I will do my best to serve with integrity, hard work and tireless service. Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Puhak (Newark Faculty Member of the Executive Committee): A member of the faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Rutgers-Newark, I have served on the University Senate as a member of the University Structure and Governance Committee (USGC), as well as a member of the Senate's Executive Committee. When elected, I made a firm commitment of time, focus, and open-minded consideration of issues. I've lived up to that promise.

Previous to the Senate and my time at Rutgers, I had the opportunity to serve successfully on a variety of boards and executive committees in industry (engineering and business at various levels, including a position as a vice

president); multiple civic groups (including executive board positions); local municipal government (both appointed positions and elected positions); educational communities (serving on a local school advisory board and committees within other universities during my education); and numerous philanthropic efforts. As a member of the Rutgers community, I am deeply proud of the work we do through teaching, research, and service. My intention in joining the Senate, and later its Executive Committee, was to leverage my diversity of experience and leadership towards achieving the common good for our University community. The work we undertake embodies a vital contribution to Rutgers. The need and contribution of the Senate's work has and will of course continue to increase with the integration of UMDNJ and entry into the Big Ten and the CIC. In service to the University, I look to continue my dedicated work as Newark Faculty Member of the Executive Committee, continuing a career-long record of 'getting things done' in a diverse, dynamic set of environments. At this time, I humbly ask for your support, your vote. You have my commitment to continue to serve dutifully, as we all pull together in the work of raising Rutgers to even greater heights. Thank you.

Samuel Rabinowitz (Faculty Representative to the Board of Governors): It has been an honor and a privilege to have served a number of roles through the University Senate over the last two decades, most recently as a Faculty Representative to the Board of Governors, and previously to the Board of Trustees and prior to that as Senate Chair. I have had the opportunity through these experiences 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 Governors. 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. The many bonds that I have built with members of the Rutgers community will aid me in being effective in this role. This has never been more important than this past year given the takeover/merger discussion involving the Camden campus. Thanks for giving me a moment of your busy day (and hopefully your vote as well)!

Asha Samant (Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees): I have been in the dental school for 32 years as a tenure track, productive faculty member with multilevel faculty experience. I have experience of an educator, administrative, researcher, and international speaker, community service volunteer for the needs of public, excellent teacher, master guild educator, and leader of the faculty in various ways.

Academic Role;

1. Twice served, president Academic Assembly NJDS
2. Chair and member of various standing committees of the school
3. Served as chair Women, AAUP and cashier AAUP
4. Set up Collaborative International Fellowship program for the school- an international expansion of education.
5. Wrote document for International student for the undergraduate and faculty recruitment in the dental school.
6. Regularly conducting and volunteer for community service for oral health awareness.
7. International and national invited speaker worldwide spoke in over 10 countries.
8. Awarded grant for resident and conducted over 10 summer research projects with Summer Students. These abstracts were presented by the students at national and international levels.
9. Served as vice president finance MEG (Masters GUILD-UMDNJ) and now president of MEG-2013-14 Awards/Honors;

1. Only faculty in the dental school, FIVE time elected by the students for Excellence in Teaching Award.
2. Recipient of Masers Guild Educator Award.

I am a devoted, committed faculty and great supporter of the faculty. I know the urge of learning and teaching, being closely working with students. Serving as leader of the Academic Assembly and various standing committees of the school, I can feel the pulse of faculty their needs, desire of advancing their academic excellence, promotions and fare recognition, academic freedom. Lifelong growth to contribute in fulfilling the Goals of the University. I will give my full support and feed back of my faculty and school with resources to promote the missions of the University and bring back the information to my school members the fiscal matters for the betterment and continuous improvement of the University for Academic Excellence

Robert A. Schwartz (Newark Faculty Member of the Executive Committee): I have a long record of fighting for and mentoring students and faculty members, working with colleagues and administration for the betterment of the New Jersey Medical School. I am keen on continuing to do so as we become of integral part of a great university, Rutgers! I feel an attachment to my undergraduate alma mater, University of California Berkeley, from which I received my degree in political science after four years and a master's degree in medical administration one year later, and look to Rutgers for the same inspirational academic prowess. I am experienced in leadership, being professor and head of dermatology, professor of medicine, professor of pediatrics and professor of preventive medicine and community health and having served as Faculty President twice, Chair of the Faculty Committee on Appointments and Promotions twice, Chair of Faculty Affairs, and in other roles. I have written more than 750 full articles and book chapters, and am a member of multiple editorial boards. I am an honorary member of the national societies of eighteen countries in my specialty, delivered the Albert Neisser Lecture at the Medical University of Wroclaw (Breslau), and this past November had the University President of China Medical University bestow the title of Honorary Professor upon me in a formal ceremony in China. I have been selected Top Doctor New York Metro Area, Castle-Connolly Guide to Best Physicians, every year 1997-2013. The second edition of my book on skin cancer was published by Wiley-Blackwell. Most importantly, I have fought vigorously in many roles in the defense of our faculty and its interests and humbly seek your support. Thus, I offer seasoned leadership of stature in these challenging times.

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 eight years, and have also chaired the Senate's Budget and Finance Committee for the past seven years. In those capacities, I have enjoyed exploring some very interesting issues of fundamental importance to the ways Rutgers operates, and have also had the opportunity to discuss and hear viewpoints from faculty and others from all areas represented in the Senate. I believe those experiences, and my 15 years as a faculty member in the Rutgers Business School - Newark and New Brunswick, 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.

Thompson, Karen (PTL/Annual-Appointee Faculty Member of the Executive Committee): After 34 years teaching as a PTL at RU, 27 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 alongside 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 (New Brunswick Faculty Member of the Executive Committee): Having been elected by the University Senate and given the opportunity and privilege to represent Rutgers faculty on the Board of Trustees (BOT) for eleven years, I am now seeking the opportunity and privilege to join the Senate Executive Committee as a New Brunswick faculty member. I feel the experience and background that I bring to the position can be of particular advantage and value to the Senate. Next academic year I will complete my sixth three-year term in the Senate and have represented the Senate and faculty each year during each of those terms. The Senate is a large, diverse body, and my years of participation have enabled me to meet and know many of its members. I believe I am in a strong position to effectively perform the duties of an Executive Committee member. I respectfully request your support and vote for this position for the coming year. Thank you.