

Rutgers University Senate
2014-15 Election
Candidates' Campaign Statements

[In alphabetical order, by last name]

Fahad Akhtar, School of Arts and Sciences – NB (S) – Candidate for Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees

It may seem odd that a student entering his second year here at Rutgers feels prepared to take on a role as important as that of Student Representative to the Board of Trustees; however, when trying to understand why I feel ready to take on this role it is important to note what I have done in my short time here and what I will continue to do if elected. Since starting at Rutgers, I have managed to get involved across the board: I have been a part of the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) as a Representative and Off-Campus Caucus Chair, a Junior Analyst for the Rutgers Student Managed Fund, a member of the Little Investment Bankers of Rutgers (LIBOR), and just recently, elected Vice President of the Rutgers Association for International Relations (ModelUN). I have done all of this while maintaining a 3.559 GPA and taking 18 course credits during my first semester and 20 my second.

The Board of Trustees Representative position will not be my first time representing students to a body of legislators as in secondary school I served as the Student Representative to the North Brunswick Township Board of Education; this role was one I expect to be similar to that of a BOT Representative just on a different scale.

The BOT Representative needs to be a person who can represent diverse views with strength and conviction; with my time in RUSA and my new position as a New Student Orientation Leader, I feel I not only have access to diverse groups of people, but also forums from which to pick up on concerns of students currently enrolled and those incoming.

My representation does not end with the students; I look forward to working closely with the faculty representative to achieve common goals including: 1) Shared Governance, 2) Broad Language Learning Requirements, 3) Promotion of the Social Sciences and Humanities, and 4) Required Multi-Cultural Exposure. I am here with a vision; though my main objective will be to represent the views of the body, I will not forgo my goals of making Rutgers a better university before I graduate.

There will certainly be doubts about a person so early in his college career taking on such a significant role; however, the decision of who takes on the BOT Representative position must be one based on merit and not age, one based on ability and not time served, and one rooted in the candidates drive and conviction. I will do everything in my capacity to serve this body well as the Representative to the Board of Trustees; I ask you, simply, to give me the opportunity.

Robert Barraco, Alumnus – Candidate for Alumnus Member of the Executive Committee

For those who do not know me, my name is Bob Barraco and I have served the last three years as the Alumnus Representative to the Senate Executive Committee. During that time, I have also co-chaired the Student Affairs Committee. It has been an honor to serve you in those capacities. I have truly enjoyed my time on the Executive Committee and would like to continue for the coming year.

Serving on the Rutgers University Senate and its Executive Committee comes from several passions of mine: my passion for education, my passion for service and my passion for Rutgers. I have always been involved in education since I graduated from Rutgers Medical School in 1989. First as an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Stony Brook University Hospital and more recently as an Associate Professor of Surgery at USF Morsani College of Medicine, Lehigh Valley campus, teaching PA students, medical students, residents and fellows. Our first class for the SELECT medical school program began in 2009 and I was in the first cohort of professional development coaches for the students. I now am Interim Associate Dean for the program, with up to 56 students per year. It has been truly exciting to watch the students grow and learn to be a new breed of physician.

My passion for service is evident not only from my duties in the Rutgers Senate but in the community as well. I have served on my church council as lay leader, served on the Board of the Lehigh County Medical Society and in the Pennsylvania Medical Society House of Delegates. This year, it is my privilege to serve as the President of the County Medical Society. Each year, we teach students in the City of Allentown School District about healthy choices and careers in healthcare. I also spend a Career Day with my daughter's middle school each year.

My passion for Rutgers manifests itself most visibly in my Senate duties as well as my work as a RAVIN (Rutgers Alumni Volunteer Information Network) alumni recruiter. I have been a season ticket holder for Rutgers Football for years and love attending games with friends and family. A founding member of the Rutgers Club of the Lehigh Valley, I continue to serve on its Board. We began the 1766 Scholarship for area students attending Rutgers University and host a send-off every year.

A vote for me is a vote for experience in the Senate and its Executive Committee, experience in dealing with the medical school and nursing school mergers, experience in charges concerning the alma mater, the choice of commencement speakers and a smoke free Rutgers to name a few. It is a vote for relationships that we have built over the years in service to our Rutgers. It is a vote for continued progress towards our future.

I truly hope that you would consider my re-election as the Alumnus Representative to the Senate Executive Committee and allow me the privilege of serving you again.

Robert Boikess, SAS-New Brunswick (F) – Candidate for New Brunswick Faculty Member of the Executive Committee

During my 46 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 committees 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 not just for Rutgers but also for the Senate. The Senate needs to be vigorous in meeting its responsibilities to the university. I ask you for the opportunity to use what I've learned and experienced to continue working with the new leadership to set the agenda that will help us all become the very best we can be.

Natalie Borisovets, Libraries (F) – Candidate for 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, as a member of the Executive Committee, and currently serve as Chair of the Instruction, Curricula & Advising Committee.

This is an exciting time for the University and for the Senate. We've spent the last year looking at where the University and each of our campuses is and wants to be, and have set some lofty goals for ourselves. In those discussions shared governance, of which the Senate is an integral part, was identified as a basic component of the make-up of the University. 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 in the past; I hope that you grant me the opportunity to do so again.

Sherry Burrell, At-Large Camden (F) – Candidate for Camden Faculty Member of the Executive Committee

[Statement not available.]

Martha Cotter, At-Large New Brunswick – Candidate for Vice Chair

I am running again for Vice Chair of the University Senate because I believe I have been very effective in that role this year and would like to continue to put my long experience in and strong commitment to shared governance at the service of the University Senate.

Francine Glaser, School of Arts and Sciences – NB (S) – Candidate for Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees

Entering my third consecutive term as a student Senator, I, Francine Glaser, am a very strong candidate for the position of Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees. I care deeply about the most important areas surrounding students' needs: the progression of student issues (ie: textbook reform, extended accessibility for study spaces, and keeping tuition low), the well-being of students' quality of life (ie: smoke-free campuses, improved disability accommodation, efforts to decrease drug use on campus), and the relationship between students, faculty, administrators, staff, alumni, and leaders across the state. I highly value democratic input, and feel comfortable and well versed to speak on behalf of the student population of Rutgers. My main priority at Rutgers has been to solve student problems; I keep student interests my foremost priority. I am also cognizant of faculty concerns. For example, I was a student ally of the Non-Tenured Track faculty members who were struggling for months to get their voices heard and reached negotiations just last year. I also have a great relationship with Rutgers administration - entering my fourth year in school as a highly involved student, I have worked with President Robert Barchi and his staff a number of times.

As an experienced rising senior, I am excited to know that after my final year as an undergraduate I will be part of a whole new Rutgers family – the alumni! I am already working with the Rutgers University Alumni Association and the Associate Alumnae of Douglass College on behalf of undergraduate relations. I have also won the Hall of Distinguished Alumni Awards Gala undergraduate contest and will spend a wonderful evening with inspirational alumni who have been impactful to different communities. I highly value the traditions of Rutgers and keeping relationships amongst alumni and current students close and collaborative.

I hope you elect myself, Francine Glaser, as the Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees, as I will work unwaveringly to keep students well represented and to keep the connection between alumni, faculty, administrators, and New Jersey leaders strong.

Ann Gould, SEBS (F) – Candidate for Chair

I am a fifth-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, I have 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, for the three terms as Vice Chair, and for the past year as Senate 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 Chair and 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 as Senate Chair, I truly appreciate your consideration and vote.

George Meggali, NCAS (S) – Candidate for Newark Student Member of the Executive Committee

Hello all! My name is George, and I am running for the Newark student seat on the Executive Committee. Having served on the Newark student government and University Senate, I am aware of both the hidden and apparent treasures in the Rutgers community, including our diverse and ambitious student body that desires to leave the world better than it found it, our service-minded faculty that makes our university distinguished, and our proud alumni who continually carry and well-represent the Rutgers brand. That is why I have worked vigorously to increase University Senate recognition and presence on the Newark campus among students, as well as worked towards expanding Newark participation as I encouraged students to join. Combined with my work experience in both the public and nonprofit sectors, along with my experience working in the FASN Dean's Office, I believe I have developed the communication, leadership, and teamwork skills necessary to effectively work with University Senate colleagues

and University administrators to greater ends. By serving on the Executive Committee, I would have the honor of furthering my participation in this process of shared governance, as I would devote my time and energy in contributing to the synergy among Rutgers students, faculty, staff, and alumni for the betterment of both our entire university. Thank you for the time you have spent to read this super-long statement and consider me for the Executive Committee!

Pamela Navrot, SAS - New Brunswick (S) – Candidate for Student Representative to the Board of Governors

Pamela Navrot is a SAS Honors Program student approaching her third year serving in the University Senate, as well as her senior year at Rutgers University. She has been actively engaged in senate meetings for the past two years, and feels as if she has gained a terrific working knowledge of the structure of Rutgers, the most prominent issues students face, and how to navigate our way to potential solutions. She has worked closely with administrators, staff, faculty, and students – from the Bond Referendum campaign to ad-hoc committees to propose charges to the University Senate. She looks forward to the opportunity to continue to foster these relationships and advocate for students in the upcoming year – and is honored to be running for the Board of Governors Student Representative position.

Jon Oliver, New Brunswick Staff – Candidate for Staff Member of the Executive Committee

It has been my privilege to serve on the Senate since 2008, co-chair University Structure and Governance since 2010 and sit on the Executive Committee since 2013. I have been honored to serve with so many remarkable Senators on issues of importance to Rutgers. We have discussed the integration of Rutgers and UMDNJ, the creation and merging of new schools to name just a few of the issues confronting the university at this time. Much work is left to do. I would be honored to continue to participate in this process and will work every day to serve the university and the community. 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.

Jane Otto, Libraries (F) - Candidate for New Brunswick Faculty Member of the Executive Committee

I am commencing my second term as a faculty Senator representing the Libraries. Currently I co-chair the Research, and Graduate and Professional Education Committee (RGPEC), and serve as a non-voting liaison between the Executive Committee and RGPEC. As an active member of RGPEC and chair of its Open Access Subcommittee, I led the successful initiative to bring an open access policy to Rutgers (Response to Charge S-1107 on Publications Repository, <http://senate.rutgers.edu/RGPEConS1103onOpenAccessOctober2012.pdf>). Last year, I co-authored the Committee's report on the University's Research Support Infrastructure (Response to Charge S-1108, <http://senate.rutgers.edu/RGPEConS1108ResearchSupportInfrastructureMay2013.pdf>). Both resolutions were passed by the Senate and received positive responses from the University administration. I have considerable leadership experience, including strategic planning for the Library of Congress and other national organizations, and several years as Director of the Board of the (North American) Association of Moving Image Archivists. I would like to see voting representation from RGPEC on the Executive Committee, and believe I can bring a thoughtful, balanced voice to the table. Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Puhak, FASN (F) – Candidate for 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 continued to increase with the integration of UMDNJ, including the multiple mergers within the new Rutgers. The work will continue to increase with 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, School of Business-Camden (F) – Candidate for Faculty Representative to the Board of Governors

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served in a number of roles through the University Senate for well over the last two decades, most recently as a Faculty Representative to the Board of Governors, and previously Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees, University Senate Chair and member of the Senate Executive Committee. 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 entire Rutgers community of stakeholders will aid me in being effective in this role. As just one example, this ongoing relationship allowed me to engage in numerous conversations which were a vital part of keeping our Camden campus part of Rutgers. Thanks for giving me a moment of your busy day (and hopefully your vote as well)!

Robert Schwartz, New Jersey Medical School (F) – Candidate for Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees

I would like your support to become the Senate representative to the Board of Trustees. I believe that my strong academic and professional credentials make me an attractive candidate, and someone of stature to represent the Senate. I am presently in my third decade as professor and head of dermatology at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, the first full time professor in dermatology in the history of this state of New Jersey. I am also professor of preventive medicine and community health, professor of medicine, and professor of pediatrics.

Below, please find a distilled list of my credentials.

- in 30th year as professor and founding head of dermatology
- a team player and team leader
- a good public speaker, recognized internationally
- a long record of mentoring students and physicians-in-training
- AB political science, University of California Berkeley; Master of Public Health, UC Berkeley
- authority on skin cancer, with emphasis on primary skin cancers and Kaposi's sarcoma
- book Skin Cancer: Recognition and Management in second edition
- known for co-discovery of AIDS-associated Kaposi's sarcoma
- recognized for describing florid cutaneous papillomatosis (Schwartz-Burgess syndrome)
- 750 full articles and book chapters, 6 books, 200 abstracts and other publications
- elected medical school Faculty President twice
- Chair of medical school Faculty Committee on Appointments and Promotions twice
- President, Sigma Xi chapter; Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society Councilor
- President twice, New York Academy of Medicine Dermatology Section
- Member, Board of Directors, International Society of Dermatology, in second five-year term
- assistant/associate editorships plus member of multiple editorial boards
- honorary member, national societies of 21 countries: Germany, Italy, Korea, Poland, Latvia, etc.
- delivered the Albert Neisser Lecture at the Medical University of Wroclaw (Breslau)
- Honorary Professor, China Medical University: conferred by CMU President
- established first dermatology residency program in New Jersey
- Top Doctor New York Metro Area, Castle-Connolly Guide to Best Physicians
- Rutgers family: wife (faculty), son (incoming freshman)

I am vigorous and eager to forge consensus to advance Rutgers. I seek your support.

Jacob Shulman, SAS - New Brunswick (S) – Candidate for Student Representative to the Board of Governors

I believe I would be a great Board of Governors Student representative due to my variety of involvement on campus and ability to represent the views and wants of different student groups and populations on and off-campus. As a devoted student, I have made sure to take advantage of any opportunity that Rutgers University has graciously offered, and am serving in student government, and running for the Board of Governor's student representative position to give back to the University. On top of donating my time for community service, I have also fund raised for various causes through the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Gamma-Upsilon Chapter at Rutgers University for breast cancer, veterans, and For The Kids (Embrace the Kids Foundation). On top of being extremely involved during my tenure at Rutgers, I have also made sure to have plenty of time to commit to the Board of Governors position for the entire term. My other involvements will be with the Board of Youth Services for the Borough of Metuchen and the student government.

One of the greatest things going against me is that I have not been in senate for multiple years, but for that time I have not sat idly by. Throughout my time at Rutgers I have been serving the community, been a part of multiple programs, and worked outside of school. Some of the programs I have been a part of are the New Jersey Leader's of Tomorrow, Eagleton Undergraduate Associates Program, the Executive Board of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity with multiple chairs working directly underneath me, An Economics' Forecasting Competition through Omicron Delta Epsilon (in which my team came in first place), Research Assistant with the Aresty Research Center, Civics Instructor at the South Plainfield High School through the RU Ready program, various Jewish Programs offered on campus, and the Executive Board of the Rutgers University Student Assembly (as the Recording Secretary).

I believe my experience with administrators and professors through these various programs allows me to be a great candidate for this position. On top of the experience of communicating with various personnel at Rutgers, I have also managed my time well, have plenty of time to devote to being the Student Representative to the Board of Governors, and finally have goals for the position. Through this opportunity I would like to make Rutgers a more unified campus all around by working with faculty, administrators, and students more accessible to each other. I would also like to help make Rutgers opportunities more readily available to students and work for the faculty to have them more accommodated for, considering they are instructing the future of this country and future leaders of this university.

Menahem Spiegel, Rutgers Business School – Newark/New Brunswick (F) – Candidate for Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees

I am honored to be considered to continue as a faculty representative to Rutgers' Board of Trustees. I have been a University Senator for nine years, and have also chaired the Senate's Budget and Finance Committee for the past eight 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 16 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

Karen Thompson, Part-time Lecturer New Brunswick (F) – Candidate for Part-time Lecturer, Adjunct Faculty Member of the Executive Committee

As a PTL in the New Brunswick English Department since 1979, I have continuously pursued, through various avenues, improving the professional lives of PTLs in the interest of enhancing student education at Rutgers. One of those avenues is faculty governance, and I have served for the past several years as one of the first Senators representing PTLs in the University Senate as well as representative for PTLs on the Senate Executive Committee. I would like to continue advocating for PTLs in both those arenas where collaboration with full-time faculty and students is crucial to our productive work.

Personally, I have put forth proposals to examine the composition of the faculty, the ratio of full-time to part-time faculty, in order to address what appears to be dangerous expansion of PTL numbers. I have also made proposals to increase governance and academic freedom for PTLs and NTTs, to convert some PTLs to NTTs, to create teaching professor positions, and to offer tuition remission to PTLs. Some of these proposals have even been successful. I would like the opportunity to continue this work on the Senate Executive Committee in 2014-15. My additional work as staff representative for the Rutgers AAUP-AFT has provided me with useful and related experience. Over the years, I have learned how much my teaching, my union work, and my service to the University are inter-related and mutually supportive. My publications and national presentations reflect this collaborative approach. I will be proud to continue representing PTLs on the Rutgers University Senate Executive Committee.

Vetri Velan, SAS – New Brunswick (S) – Candidate for New Brunswick Student Member of the Executive Committee

My name is Vetri Velan, and I am a rising senior majoring in Chemical Engineering and Physics. For the past three years, I have been heavily involved in the Engineering Governing Council, serving as its President for the 2013-2014 year. Moreover, during the 2012-2013 year, I was a University Senator, serving on the Budget & Finance Committee. Under my leadership, the Council has grown to unsurpassed heights, setting records in general membership, voter turnout, and responses to our "What's On Your Mind" survey. We have worked on new initiatives, such as contributing to the improvement of the WebReg system by creating more blocks so that fewer students are registering at a time. We worked in conjunction with the administration to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the School of Engineering with our 3rd annual NERD Olympics, Cardboard Canoe Races, and the new School of Engineering Movie Series.

Next year, I want to continue the efforts to make the University a better place. And to do this, I want to utilize the Senate, the only body at Rutgers which connects all of the University's major stakeholders. As the Student Representative to the Executive Committee, my primary goal would be to strengthen the student caucus and the Senate as a whole. I know that my experience leading the Engineering Governing Council will be invaluable in executing this task, and that my skills in leadership and management make me a qualified candidate for the position.