

**Rutgers University Senate**  
**2015-16 Election**  
**Candidates' Campaign Statements**

**CHAIR**

**Ann Gould, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences – Candidate for Chair**

I am a sixth-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 two years 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.

**VICE CHAIR**

**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 and would like to continue to put my long experience in, and strong commitment to, shared governance at the service of the University Senate.

**Peter Gillett, Rutgers Business School New Brunswick – Candidate for Vice Chair**

This week I am asking for your vote as Vice Chairperson of the University Senate. I have previously served on the Executive Committee for five years, and I now hope to have the opportunity to extend my service to you all. Some background:

1. 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 located) and in Newark (where my School is based). I have been an active member of the Senate for five terms, working on the University Structure and Governance Committee (as Chair or Co-Chair for five years) and on the Budget and Finance Committee. On USGC, 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. I followed Paul Panayotatos as Chair of the Senate’s Ad-Hoc Committee on Shared Governance. For the past two years, I have been asked by the Chair to serve as the University Senate Parliamentarian.

2. 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 fifth 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.

3. My three children all graduated from Rutgers, giving me considerable experience as a Rutgers parent, and insights into student life, educational costs, and the infamous RU Screw.

4. My potential contributions as Vice Chairperson, I believe, are the ability both to see the big picture and to attend to small but significant details; steadfast refusal to put popularity 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, to the Senate, and to shared governance; 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. I have greatly enjoyed my work on Senate so far, and learned a great deal from it, especially about collaborative work and about how Rutgers functions. I shall greatly appreciate your vote and look forward to serving you once more in these increasingly fascinating but challenging times.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBER, NEWARK**

### **Natalie Borisovets, Libraries – 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 period in the history of this university. The merger of the University of Medicine and Dentistry into Rutgers has resulted in an even stronger, more vibrant university while at the same time presenting us with a myriad of issues that must be resolved. We’ve developed a series of strategic plans and are beginning to implement them. How we do so will determine what this university will look like in the future. There are lots of decisions that need to be made; many of these will find their way to the Senate floor.

Shared governance, of which the Senate is an integral part, is a key component of the make-up of the University. Unlike most other university senates, the Rutgers University Senate gives all segments of the University a representative voice. 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.

**Robert Puhak, Faculty Arts and Sciences Newark – Candidate for Newark Faculty Member of the Executive Committee**

A faculty member in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Rutgers-Newark, I have served on the University Senate for the past five years as a member of the University Structure and Governance Committee (USGC), this past year as Co-Chair of that committee, and for the past four years as a member of the Senate's Executive Committee. I am also a proud Rutgers Dad, as my oldest child is a sophomore here. And, as a member of the Rutgers community, I am deeply proud of the work we do and the mission we serve through teaching, research, and service.

When elected to the Senate and later its Executive Committee, I made a firm commitment of dedicated time and work, as well as a thorough and balanced consideration of all issues. I've lived up to that promise. Along with my colleagues on the Executive Committee, we have addressed numerous matters, e.g. proposed mergers and other large-scale, unprecedented changes, along with a host of 'more regular', yet still essentially important, concerns. We have done so in steadfast manner with passion and dedication to our shared goal, the well-being and advancement of our "One Rutgers" community.

Previous to the Senate and my time at Rutgers, I had the opportunity to serve successfully on a variety of boards and executive committees, which I believe brings value, both in experience and broad perspective, to my work on the Senate's Executive Committee. My background includes experience in industry (within engineering and business, at various levels, including a position as vice president); among multiple civic groups (and related executive boards); within municipal government (in both elected and appointed positions); in educational communities (serving on a local school advisory board in my town and committees within other universities during my education); and finally, working to advance numerous philanthropic efforts.

At this time, through the work of the Senate's Executive Committee, I want to continue to leverage that broad, deep, and varied experience . . . and that record of getting things done in a diverse, dynamic set of environments. And so, I would appreciate and humbly ask for your support here, your vote for "Newark Faculty Member of the Executive Committee", so that I may continue to serve through the challenges and opportunities we face this coming year, as we all pull together through shared governance, raising our Rutgers to even greater heights. Thank you.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBER, NEW BRUNSWICK**

**Robert Boikess, School of Arts and Sciences – Candidate for New Brunswick Faculty Member of the Executive Committee**

During my 47 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 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.

## **Jane Otto, Libraries – Candidate for New Brunswick Faculty Member of the Executive Committee**

As a faculty Senator representing the Libraries, I am an active member of the Senate, serving as New Brunswick Faculty Member on the Executive Committee as well as chair of the Research, and Graduate and Professional Education Committee (RGPEC). During my first term in the Senate, I led the successful 2012 initiative to bring an open access policy to Rutgers ( <http://senate.rutgers.edu/RGPECConS1103onOpenAccessOctober2012.pdf> ) and the following year I co-authored the Committee's report on the University's Research Support Infrastructure ( <http://senate.rutgers.edu/RGPECConS1108ResearchSupportInfrastructureMay2013.pdf> ). Both resolutions were passed by the Senate and received positive responses from the University administration. In addition, RGPEC this week has delivered a substantive report on University support for international graduate students, which can help to move the University forward in aligning support for international students with the University mission and strategic plan. I have considerable leadership experience in a variety of organizations, including professional associations, the vestry, and large research institutions, including the Library of Congress and UCLA. 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.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBER, RBHS**

### **Jerome Langer, RWJMS – Candidate for RBHS Faculty Member of the Executive Committee**

I'm currently completing my first year of service as a Senator representing Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS), and as the RBHS representative on the Senate Executive Committee. This year has been one of learning the responsibilities of these positions, and the range of issues that come to these bodies. I believe that I have served RWJMS and RBHS well and I would like to build on my experience to again represent RBHS on the Executive Committee. My work on the Senate is based on my experience and interests in my faculty roles. My faculty work includes: teaching medical and graduate students; conducting research related to interferons and immune defenses against viruses; directing several programs whose goal is to increase the number of PhD students and scientists in biomedical sciences from under-represented groups. Activities on behalf of my school and faculty have included: leadership in the AAUP over a sustained period; service as Secretary of the Faculty for RWJMS; one year as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at RWJMS; service on the Executive Committee of the Rutgers-New Brunswick Graduate School. I was also elected as a member of the UMDNJ Master Educators' Guild for my work in graduate education. These and other efforts have provided insight into the varied environments within the schools of RBHS; into graduate and professional education at RBHS and Rutgers; into diversity and outreach issues; and into issues of student and professional life and development. I therefore seek the opportunity to continue representing RBHS on the RU Senate Executive Committee for another year.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STUDENT MEMBER, NEWARK**

### **Edmund Janniger, School of Public Affairs and Administration – Candidate for Newark Student Member of the Executive Committee**

I am seeking re-election as a member of the Senate Executive Committee and ask for your support. I am a student at the School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA), serving as President of the Rutgers Council on Public and International Affairs and Head Delegate of the intercollegiate Model United Nations team. This academic year, I hosted a former U.S. Senator, a U.S. Congressman, and a world leader and former dissident. I will soon have a former U.S. Surgeon General speaking for the Council, a student-run nonpartisan organization sponsored by SPAA. Most recently, the Model UN team competed at the Headquarters of the United Nations. I

humbly seek your support to continue as your voice on the Executive Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STUDENT MEMBER, NEW BRUNSWICK**

#### **Justin Schulberg, School of Arts and Sciences New Brunswick – Candidate for New Brunswick Student Member of the Executive Committee**

As a sophomore at Rutgers I've bled scarlet since I first started here just two years ago. A member of the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program, I am majoring in Mathematics and Political Science, with minors in Spanish and Economics. As a first year I became Vice President of my Residence Hall, a member of the College Avenue Residence Council, a participant in an Alternative Breaks trip on prison reform and a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. What's dedication without momentum keeping it alive? My sophomore year I kept the momentum going and became a Vice President on the Interfraternity Council, a seasoned University senator with a perfect attendance record, and a site leader of an Alternative Breaks trip on sustainable living. Just this past month I participated in Rutgers' Student Advocacy Day where I traveled to D.C. to lobby for increased financial aid. As I continue on in my Rutgers career, I will continue in the Senate, in Sigma Chi, in RUSA and on the Interfraternity Council. It looks like I won't stop bleeding scarlet for years to come.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALUMNUS MEMBER**

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

To my friends and colleagues in the Rutgers University Senate Community:

My name is Bob Barraco and I have served the last 4 years as the Alumnus Representative to the Senate Executive Committee. I have also co-chaired the Student Affairs Committee during that time. It has been my privilege and honor to serve the Rutgers Community in those capacities and I hope to continue to do so if you cast your vote for me.

I spoke last year of my passion for education, my passion for service and my passion for Rutgers. These passions have only grown. As to education, I am now the Associate Dean of Educational Affairs for the Lehigh Valley campus of the SELECT program. Over the years, I have served as faculty, professional development coach and clerkship director and as such, have valuable experience in those areas of higher education to add to my status as alumnus. I have continued many of the service activities as last year to include President of the Lehigh County Medical Society and delegate in the Pennsylvania Medical Society House of Delegates and giving back to the middle schools in the Allentown area through Career Day and Health Career Clubs. As to my passion for Rutgers, I maintain my season tickets to football, my contributions to the Rutgers Club of the Lehigh Valley 1766 scholarship and my role on the RUAA Leadership Council and liaison to its Board.

As was true last year, a vote for me is a vote for experience in the Senate and its Executive Committee, experience in dealing with the many charges that have faced our Senate Community. It is a vote for continuity and stability in a period of unprecedented change. And it is a vote for passionate leadership into a bright future.

Again, 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.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PTL/ANNUAL APPOINTEE FACULTY MEMBER**

#### **Gurpreet Singh, PTL Newark – Candidate for PTL/Annual Appointee Member of the Executive Committee**

I have several years of experience as the Board Member and immediate Past-President of Institute for Supply Management New Jersey Chapter. In that capacity, I managed a team of over 25 board members (all volunteers) and currently serve as a Trustee/ advisor to the board. In addition, I sit on the Executive Board of American Society for Quality (ASQ)'s Finance and Governance Technical Committee. Further, as part of my consulting business, most of my clients are executives in the Fortune 100 private companies or federal agencies and engage me a change agent coach and a mentor.

**Karen Thompson, PTL New Brunswick – Candidate for PTL/Annual Appointee Member of the Executive Committee**

As a PTL in New Brunswick English Department since 1979, I have continuously pursued, through various avenues, improving the professional lives of PTLs in the interest of enhancing undergraduate 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 to the New Brunswick Faculty Council (NBFC). In those roles, I have put forth proposals to examine the composition of the faculty, to increase governance for PTLs and Annuals, to convert some PTLs to Annuals, and to offer tuition remission to PTLs. I would like the opportunity to continue this work as representative to the Senate Executive Committee for PTLs in 2015-16. My complementary appointment 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, union work and, 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 in the Senate Executive Committee.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBER**

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

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 35 years at Rutgers as a student, staff member (for 29 years), alumni and instructor. I wake up each morning proud to be a small part of this great institution. Higher Education and Rutgers are both experiencing 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.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE**

**Samuel Rabinowitz, Rutgers Business School Camden – Candidate for the Board of Governors Faculty Representative**

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)!

**Alexander Settles, Rutgers Business School Newark/New Brunswick – Candidate for Board of Governors Faculty Representative**

I am very interested in the governance of Rutgers University and I believe I can further provide service to the university by my election as a faculty representative to the Board of Governors.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**Akeen Anaele, Rutgers Business School New Brunswick – Candidate for Board of Governors Student Representative**

Akeen Anaele is a dedicated, hardworking student, representing Rutgers Business School New Brunswick. He is committed to exercising the right of shared governance within Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey on multiple fronts, including representing students on the Board of Governors. Akeen, has worked with faculty, staff, and students on creating a charge that would recommend serious athletic finance reform. This charge passed with strong support from many senators. It is imperative that students, faculty, and staff work together to bring our unique opinions and beliefs front and center. Only through compromise and collaborative thinking, may we bring institutional eminence to Rutgers. Akeen strongly believes in these morals and their outcomes, which is why the senate should vote him as the next Board of Governors' Student Representative.

**Alexandra Williams, School of Arts and Sciences New Brunswick – Candidate for Board of Governors Student Representative**

I believe that I would make a great representative to the Board of Governors. Being involved in the Rutgers community is something that has been extremely important to me. I am a proud Douglass woman, a member of the SAS Honors Program, the Public Relations Officer for the Women's Center Coalition, and an SAS Honors Program Ambassador. Next year I will also be a Red Pine Ambassador for Douglass Residential College and an SAS Honors Program Peer Mentor. I've also been heavily involved with the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) in which I was a member of the Student Affairs Committee, the Douglass Caucus Chair, and RUSA's first ever Sexual Assault Task Force Chair. I believe that my leadership and insight in all of these capacities proves me to be a well-rounded candidate, a hard worker, and someone who strives to make Rutgers University a better place. I'd love to work with the Board of Governors not only to gain a better understanding into the workings of the university but also to hopefully help illuminate the student perspective for the Board as well. Thank you so much for your consideration!

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE**

**Asha Samant, Rutgers School of Dental Medicine – Candidate for Board of Trustees Faculty Representative**

I served for one year (2013-2014), Senate Representative to BOARD OF Trustees. After the merger it was the first time that a faculty from the School of Dental Medicine got an equal opportunity to represent from Newark. This was a period to get to know and learn the needs of Faculty members from Newark and now RBHS. I served on University Structure and Governance committee during that period.

I know the feelings and needs of Faculty members of the school I am representing and their voice to take to reach highest Academic value, freedom of academia and their needs to go to next deserving promotional level .I wish to convey my colleagues, please put your trust in me and I will take your trust as messenger for your betterment where ever I could find an opportunity to speak.

**Robert A. Schwartz MD, MPH, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School – Candidate for Board of Trustees Faculty Representative**

I seek your support to continue as your Senate representative to the Rutgers Board of Trustees. I have a long record of fighting for and mentoring faculty members, staff, and students. I am a double alumnus of the University of California Berkeley, four years in political science and a master's degree in medical administration. I have considerable experience as a proven leader, being professor and head of dermatology, professor of medicine, professor of pediatrics and professor of preventive medicine and community health, as well as Visiting Professor in the Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration. I have also served as Faculty President twice, Chair of the Faculty Committee on Appointments and Promotions twice, Chair of Faculty Affairs, and in other important 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 more than 20 countries in my specialty, and in 2012 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 1997-2015, and for NIH Study Section Panels for the past six years. The second edition of my book on skin cancer was published by Wiley-Blackwell. Leading our school's chapters of Sigma Xi the Scientific Research Society and Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society has provided me an opportunity to further assist and recognize the accomplishments of students, faculty, and staff. Most importantly, I have fought vigorously in many roles in the defense of our faculty, staff, and students. I humbly seek your support to continue as your senate representative to the Board of Trustees. Thus, I offer seasoned leadership of stature in these challenging times. Thank you for your consideration.

**Menahem Spiegel, Rutgers School of Business Newark/New Brunswick – Candidate for Board of Trustees Faculty Representative**

I am honored to be considered to continue as a faculty representative to Rutgers' Board of Trustees. I have been a University Senator for ten 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.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**Christina McGinnis, School of Arts and Sciences New Brunswick – Candidate for Board of Trustees Undergraduate Student Representative**

I believe that I am strong candidate for the position of Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees. I have been a member of the Rutgers University Senate since January 2014 and have worked to maintain an academic record that I am proud of. In addition, I have been actively involved in a variety of campus activities: Captain and coxswain for the Rutgers University Women's Varsity Rowing team, Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity member, National Society of Collegiate Scholars recruit, President of Katzenbach Hall through Rutgers Residence Hall Association, Douglass Residential College Lead House and Women in

Business House, and several organizations that provide community service. Being involved in so many levels here at Rutgers has been a privilege and the rewards have far exceeded the work. With all that I have been involved in and all of the students I continue to meet, I strongly believe that I can represent a broad spectrum of the Rutgers student population. The different organizations that I am part of have allowed me to see many areas of concern to students, faculty, staff and alumni. I have a respectful connection with faculty and staff at Rutgers University and look forward to working with all faculty, staff, administration, and alumni during my last year at Rutgers as an undergraduate. Maintaining valued traditions and keeping student, faculty, staff, and alumni relationships honest and open is of great value to me and will be apparent if elected to be the Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees. I look forward to continuing to advocate for students and maintaining close relationships among all those who are part of Rutgers University strong. Thank you for your consideration — it is an amazing honor to be running for the Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees position.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

### **Diana Gonzalez, Graduate School of Education – Candidate for Board of Trustees Graduate Student Representative**

#### **\*Who I Am \***

As an alumnus, staff, and current student of Rutgers University I am deeply rooted in my scarlet home. After graduating from Rutgers University—New Brunswick in 2007, I moved overseas to Japan where I worked as an early childhood educator for several years. Upon returning to the United States, I worked in the non-profit sector for 2 years until I decided it was time to pursue my graduate education. With ambitions of establishing a career in higher education, I chose the Graduate School of Education's College Student Affairs master's program. I am on the professional development committee within the division of Student Affairs to create developmental programs for all staff within the division. I also work in the training and personnel unit of the department of Residence Life. Among my many graduate courses, I've embarked on an independent study with president emeritus, Dr. Richard McCormick, to research senior leadership at institutions of higher education. My personal interests are fitness, sports, ballroom dance, yoga, languages, travel, volunteering, and poverty alleviation outreach.

#### **\*Why I should be Elected to Become Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees\***

Currently I work part-time at Princeton University and in several weeks I will be transitioning to Georgetown University for the summer as the Residential Director of the Community Scholars Program, a program dedicated to assimilating matriculated first generation college students to the Georgetown campus. With the scope of my experience at various institutions of higher education partnered with my graduate work in college student affairs, I hope to make significant contributions with such a multi-faceted perspective to serve on the Rutgers University board of trustees. With my interests in university governance, organizational structures, funding, and administration, I am eager to learn more of the Rutgers structure and use my skill sets to act as liaison between the Board of Trustees and the University Senate.

I possess a fundamental understanding of strategic planning, leveraging strengths, increasing diversity and inclusion, and advocacy through all my committee work and professional experience that I can utilize as a

Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees. Additionally, having been an undergraduate student, being an alumnus, working with students as a student affairs practitioner, as well as working with students as a teacher, and currently being a graduate student, I comprehend first hand representation for all Rutgers University constituents.