

Last month, the NJ Higher Education Affordability Study Commission released its final report. On p. 9, the Commission recommends three-plus-one programs, that is, a degree path that would allow a student to spend three years at a community college and one year at Rutgers and then graduate with a Rutgers degree. Such a transfer protocol would make many of our major and minor curricula unworkable. Also, three-plus-one will undermine the value of a Rutgers degree, as employers and grad schools learn that the degree may carry only 30 Rutgers credit.

The single faculty representative on the Commission, Dr. Tim Haresign (President, Council of NJ State College Union Locals and Associate Professor, Stockton University) argued strenuously against this idea. He also wrote a minority report (pp. 37-39). Nancy Cantor served on the Commission too, and she signed onto three-plus-one.

Unfortunately, this dreadful proposal has gained traction very quickly. Legislators have written a handful of bills, some of which might mandate the degree path for Rutgers and all of which would surely pressure us to comply. Around that state, faculty unions are mobilizing against three-plus-one. I hope the Senate can join in this effort, perhaps by issuing a statement.

The unions have tentatively scheduled a meeting with Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, chair of the Assembly's Higher Ed Committee, for Tues 25 Oct at 4pm at the Union office. If one of you can come, please keep in touch with Patick Nowlan, the Union executive director (copied here).

Best,
David

David M. Hughes
Professor of Anthropology
President, Rutgers AAUP-AFT faculty union
Rutgers University