

Proposed Resolution on Salary and Tuition

Whereas the Rutgers administration imposed a salary freeze on the legacy Rutgers faculty and staff; allowed and has not taken cognizance of major increases in health insurance premiums paid by faculty and staff, and has given no economic recognition to faculty merit in over four years; and

Whereas the Rutgers administration has failed to recognize that the legacy UMDNJ faculty has not received across the board or merit based salary increases in six years while the UMDNJ administration granted itself a four percent increase including two percent granted on the last day prior to the merger with Rutgers (June 30, 2013); and

Whereas the legacy UMDNJ faculty have experienced major increases in health insurance premiums paid by the faculty and have had the University's contributions to their retirement program capped; and

Whereas the Rutgers administration has failed to extend to the legacy UMDNJ faculty the same tuition remission benefits it offers to the legacy Rutgers faculty; and

Whereas the Rutgers administration has put on the table a proposal to the legacy UMDNJ faculty that provides for merit-only increases (no across-the-board, no cost of living increases), eliminates the protections of multi-year contracts currently afforded to non-tenure-track faculty, and changes the extramural support incentive award structure in a way that threatens to reduce the amount of the award; and

Whereas the administration has proposed very minimal salary improvements for full-time faculty and for staff—proposals that amount to a pay cut when inflation and further increases in health benefits cost-sharing are considered; and

Whereas these low percentage increases are especially unjust for contingent faculty, who provide the majority of undergraduate instruction and are generally very poorly paid; and

Whereas Rutgers has \$600 million in unrestricted funds in reserves—some of which can certainly be used to provide a level of compensation for faculty and staff consistent with the lofty goals expressed in the Strategic Plan of building a great faculty and a great University; and

Whereas, notwithstanding administration claims to the contrary, Rutgers faculty and staff are among the very lowest paid in the Big Ten, when relative cost of living is taken into consideration; and

Whereas the Rutgers administration does not stint on its own compensation, having at least 78 members who earn over \$250,000 per year with a mean salary of \$330,000, well above the levels at comparable Universities; and

Whereas the Rutgers administration seeks to limit the voices of students in shared governance, but seeks to justify its recalcitrance toward faculty and staff salary improvements on the basis of a false argument that salary increases mean tuition increases;

Be it resolved that the University Senate calls on the administration to enter into serious negotiations with all faculty and staff unions about economic compensation, with particular attention to redressing the salary inequities and injustices among the lower paid groups of faculty and staff and the issues of gender equity and salary compression; and

Be it further resolved that we most strongly urge the University not to burden students with additional increases in tuition and fees in order to meet these eminently reasonable economic needs of faculty and staff.