



University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey **Student Government Manifesto**

Draft proposed by the UMDNJ Student Senate Executive Council on September 27, 2012, University Day, Newark Campus, and unanimously approved by the Student Senators on behalf of all UMDNJ School Student Governments on March 3, 2013

“We, the students and student government leaders of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (herein referred to as UMDNJ), do hereby establish and promulgate this manifesto on this twenty seventh day of September, two thousand and twelve.

UMDNJ is an institution with 58 years of history, and throughout this time, it has seen generations upon generations of students and student government leaders come and go, and as its individual schools were being established one by one, it has also seen generations of such students and student leaders and student governing bodies operate within the silos of their individual schools. Several efforts were undertaken to create a forum where students and student leaders from all of UMDNJ could gather and discuss issues of importance, not only to the university and its constituents, but also issues inherent to the broader aspects of being a student in the biomedical and health sciences professions. In 2009, more than 55 years after its founding, and with the support of the university administration, most notably the Office of the President, UMDNJ was finally able to create such a forum: the UMDNJ Student Senate.

The mission of the UMDNJ Student Senate is to serve as the official voice of the UMDNJ students on any and all issues of student concern, to serve as effective advocates for students and their student governments within central UMDNJ administration, and to facilitate increased inter-school student activities and involvement.

Since its inception, the UMDNJ Student Senate has served as the impetus behind a great number of initiatives, which have transformed the way students and student leaders communicate and do business at UMDNJ. This includes the following:

- ✓ Regularly holding meetings at which **all 8 UMDNJ schools have been consistently represented**,
- ✓ Serving as an outlet for the **coordination of inter-school student activities**, including the Japan Relief Fund and the Knit-a-Square Project, just to name a few,
- ✓ Providing a support structure for the **promotion, distribution and dissemination of student, faculty and staff activities and events**,
- ✓ Assisting in the **development of inter-school policy initiatives and recommendations** to be presented to UMDNJ’s central administration, such as on financial aid issues and campus safety,
- ✓ **Coordinating student lobbying efforts** at the local, regional and statewide level,
- ✓ And encouraging students to support the mission of UMDNJ [To Teach, To Discover, To Heal, and To Care] through **the award of service grants and coordination of assistance to projects that support this mission** using an inter-disciplinary approach.

More recently, with UMDNJ’s embracement of the concept of interprofessionalism, which represents the newly established methodology to do business in the biomedical and health sciences, the UMDNJ Student Senate has been working hard to invigorate the university with the spirit of interprofessionalism at the student level, by pursuing the following highly successful initiatives:



- ✓ Increased support for the **Inter-Professional Grand Rounds (IPGR)** via better promotion and greater student participation,
- ✓ The quarterly publication of **THE SCOPE**, the newsletter and print voice of UMDNJ students, which continues to receive rave reviews from all cross-sections of the university, including from individuals at the highest levels of central administration,
- ✓ **The creation of the 1st interprofessional honor society in the United States of America, the Alpha Chi Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Lambda**, the Graduate and Professional School Student Honor Society, which represents a milestone in the history of the health professions and bodes well for the positioning of the university in raising its status as a visionary leader in interprofessional education, service, research and collaborative practice,
- ✓ The creation of **a support structure to encourage increasingly greater levels of interprofessional collaboration** at UMDNJ via the granting of inter-school club charters,
- ✓ And investigations on the benefits of having the UMDNJ Student Senate become a member of the **National Association of Graduate and Professional School Students**, which could bring tremendous benefits and opportunities to all UMDNJ graduate and professional degree students, including discounted health insurance and access to student advocacy initiatives at the national level.

We have been following the development of higher education trends within our state and have carefully examined the legislative bill entitled “The New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act” (herein referred to as NJMHSERA), which has been signed into law as of August 22, 2012 and will officially transfer all schools and assets of UMDNJ to Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, with the exception of the School of Osteopathic Medicine, which will be transferred to Rowan University. While we applaud the benevolent motives and promising implications of this initiative, we are concerned by the absence of clear support for the continued existence of a student government support structure that includes all UMDNJ schools, which is a role currently fulfilled by the UMDNJ Student Senate. In light of this new reality, and in order to ensure the continued success of university-wide student advocacy and governing at UMDNJ, we, the students and student leaders of the governing bodies of the individual schools of UMDNJ and of the UMDNJ Student Senate, do hereby declare:

- ✓ Whereas **the name UMDNJ will no longer exist as of July 1, 2013**, as a result of the NJMHSERA,
- ✓ Whereas the new educational, clinical, and research entity which we call our home shall be named the **Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences** (herein referred to as RBHS),
- ✓ Whereas, although the exact name “Student Senate” does not currently exist at Rutgers University, **it is a fact that the name “Senate” already exists at several student governing bodies at Rutgers University, most notably the Rutgers University Senate**, which is a large, university-wide authoritative body that consists of elected students, faculty, staff and other appointed members that regularly makes policy and other recommendations to the Rutgers President and Board of Governors,
- ✓ Whereas two of Rutgers University’s campuses’ (i.e. New Brunswick and Newark,) each have **two large student governing bodies that represent their respective two student populations** (i.e. graduate and undergraduate),
- ✓ Whereas the Rutgers University-Camden campus has **one large student governing body that represents both its graduate and undergraduate student populations**,
- ✓ Whereas **all individual school academic units at Rutgers University elect at least one student as University Senator to represent their concerns at the level of the Rutgers University Senate**,



with the number being incrementally greater than 1 depending on multiples of 1200 enrolled full-time equivalent students at that individual school,

- ✓ And whereas NJMHSERA states that **RBHS is to maintain all of its individual schools** and will also consist of the **Rutgers College of Nursing** (herein referred to as RCN) and the **Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy** (herein referred to as EMSOP), implying the existence of 9 distinct academic schools, united under the overall administrative banner of RBHS,

Be it resolved that:

- ✓ It is clear to all parties, both within and outside of Rutgers University, that **we fully support the continued existence of a united student governing body** for all 9 schools and for all students of the new RBHS,
- ✓ From this day forth, **the student governing body of the new RBHS may be called the Rutgers Interprofessional Student Congress** (herein referred to as RISC), which is to be made legally official on July 1, 2013, at the same time as the completion of the NJMHSERA transition,
- ✓ RISC shall consist of **3 elected representatives per academic school unit**, bringing the total number of elected representatives to twenty seven (27), up from the current number of twenty one (21), due to the addition of RCN and EMSOP,
- ✓ For each school, these elected representatives shall consist of the student(s) elected **University Senator(s)**, plus one (1) or two (2) additional elected student representatives, who will hold the title of **School Representative(s)**, for a **maximum of three (3) elected representatives per individual academic school unit**,
- ✓ Each of these three (3) elected representatives shall hold the title of, and thenceforth be referred to as, **Student Congressman or Congresswoman at RBHS**.
- ✓ With the exception of these changes which are being made to allow RISC to better fit into the Rutgers University student government framework, **no other changes are recommended to the current bylaws, standing rules, structure and mission of RISC**,
- ✓ **No changes are recommended to the structure of the individual school student governing bodies at any of the nine (9) schools of RBHS**,
- ✓ It is made clear that **we cordially invite the students and student leaders of RCN and EMSOP to formally join us as full partners** in the establishment of RISC at RBHS,
- ✓ This manifesto is **to become the official position of the student leaders of RBHS upon the signature of their respective student government representatives**, and the contents of this document shall be considered **the will of said student governing bodies starting on July 1, 2013**,
- ✓ **Amendments may be made to this document** between September 27, 2012 and July 1, 2013, by majority vote of RISC.

In witness and support thereof, we, the students and student leaders of RBHS, have hereunto affixed our names and signatures.”

UMDNJ Student Senate 2012-2013 Executive Council:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School & Year</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>Christine White</u>	<u>NJMS, 2013</u>	<u>Senate Chair</u>
<u>Paul Boulos</u>	<u>SOM, 2014</u>	<u>Senate Vice Chair</u>
<u>Yuri T. Jadotte, MD</u>	<u>SN, 2015</u>	<u>Senate Secretary</u>
<u>Richard Arilotta</u>	<u>SPH, 2013</u>	<u>Senate Treasurer</u>
<u>Michael Hayoun</u>	<u>NJMS, 2014</u>	<u>Senate IA Co-Chair</u>
<u>William Cole</u>	<u>SHRP, 2015</u>	<u>Senate IA Co-Chair</u>