

# RUTGERS UNIVERSITY SENATE

## University Structure & Governance Committee

### *Partial Response*

#### CHARGE

S-0712

#### *Enhanced Shared Governance, and University Senate*

*Review the Senate Handbook and Bylaws, and make recommendations or suggestions for revision based on the USGC's self-submitted "Proposal to Review Senate Operations to Enhance Shared Governance. Respond to Senate Executive Committee by February 2008.*

#### SUMMARY

The University Structure and Governance Committee (USGC) has been charged with exploring larger issues of shared governance within the Senate and the university. The USGC is first looking at the role the Senate and its Senators play in the governance of the university, specifically with eth Boards. In doing so, the committee is focusing on issues of equity of all constituents represented by the University Senate.

Having conducted this review, the USGC recommends the following actions:

- One non-voting alumni Senator seat be added to both the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees.
- One non-voting staff Senator be added to both the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees.

#### REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On April 27, 2007, the University Senate voted unanimously to accept the USGC Report on Charge S-0604 on Shared Governance. In the report, the tenets of shared governance were outlined. Among them:

- A formal relationship should exist between consultative bodies and the central administration regarding decision making.
- All stakeholders impacted by a decision should be involved in discussions of pertinent issues; if appropriate, they participate in decision making, and in all cases they are informed of and given explanations for the outcome of processes.
- The vehicles and processes for shared governance are responsive and respectful of the various cultures that exist at Rutgers (administrative, academic, student), with these processes meeting the unique needs of each group.

In addition, the report ensured that the USG Committee of the University Senate would continue to assess its own operations with regard to the representation of all community members through the Senate, in order to make it a more effective deliberative body for the university community.

That report provided a framework for the committee's discussions. Specifically, the USGC suggested that the following actions occur:

- The University Senate, through this committee, continue to assess its own operations with regard to the representation of all community members through the Senate, in order to make it a more effective deliberative body for the university community;
- Given the relatively recent advent of Staff Senators, give special attention to considering staff representation in processes entailing shared governance.

Therefore, the USGC suggests the following recommendations.

**Recommendation #1:**

One alumni Senator be elected as a non-voting member of the Board of Governors and one alumni Senator be elected as a non-voting member of the Board of Trustees. In addition, Article VII.E of the Senate By-laws would be changed as follows below.

**Recommendation #2:**

One staff Senator be elected as a non-voting member of the Board of Governors and one staff Senator be elected as a non-voting member of the Board of Trustees. In addition, Article VII.E of the Senate By-laws would be changed as follows below

**Recommended Changes to the Bylaws**

Article VII.E.1

"...The five representatives to the Board of Governors are: one elected faculty senator who is a full-time faculty member, the chair of the University Senate ex officio, one elected student senator, one alumni Senator, and one staff senator.... The six representatives to the Board of Trustees are: two elected faculty senators who are full-time faculty members; one elected graduate student senator; one elected senior, junior, or sophomore undergraduate student senator, one alumni senator, and one staff senator..."

Article VII.E.3

"Each elected senator representative serves as an advocate of the Senate view..."

**University Structure and Governance Committee, 2007-2008**

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