

2020-21 Campaign Statements

Elections for Student Members of the Executive Committee and Board Representatives

Camden Student Member of the Executive Committee

Michael Van Stine, Graduate School-Camden (S)

I seek a fourth term on the Executive Committee. I have been in the Senate for six years and have past served on our Faculty Personnel Affairs Committee and our Research and Graduate and Professional Education Committee. I have been the Executive Senator of my campus for five years, past serving our School of Arts and Sciences and more recently our Graduate School as a PhD student. This will be my last year as a Rutgers student. So, it is very important to me to complete some unfinished work while also continuing to participate in all agenda items presented to the EC. I remain personally committed to getting a qualified student representative onto the University Free Speech Committee; helping our students to receive the best quality educational experience during the pandemic crisis; assure fair tuition and expenses where students are paying full freight but have compromised semesters; pursue policy guidelines for Academic Deans where they have currently unguided complete discretionary powers; assure more approved transient and SMART transcript credits and commit to do all possible to help our university be carbon-free. I am also interested in assuring food security and personal safety for all our students and stakeholders.

These are very challenging times for all our campuses, for students, faculty, administration, staff and stakeholders. We have a new president and, on my campus, a new chancellor. I believe we can do great things this year under exigent circumstances if we work more than ever as a great team. Thank you!

Newark Student Member of the Executive Committee

Sarah Shobut, School of Arts & Sciences - Newark (S)

Hello everyone, my name is Sarah Shobut, SAS-N representative to the University Senate. My pronouns are She/Her/Hers. I'm currently a third-year student double majoring in Political science & Women & Gender Studies, and triple minoring in legal studies, philosophy, and honors college. This is my second consecutive year of being on the Senate, and I was fortunate to serve on EC last year. I ran to represent our campus, the campus that has long been called the diversity laboratory. I ran to ensure that the voices of the students of the most diverse campus are being heard. I am running again to continue the work that was started last year and further promote inclusion in all aspects of our university. This year has been unprecedented in every sense of the word. For starters, who would have thought we actually would have virtual senate meetings? We have many new circumstances we need to adapt to, and we do that by ensuring that all aspects of the student and faculty experiences are accounted for.

Jose Ward, School of Law - Newark (S)

Thank you for your consideration of my sincere interest to be your Newark Student Member of the Executive Committee (EC). I have conducted extensive research, including speaking with the EC, before deliberating and concluding that the EC would be the best fit for me to serve you.

The EC acts and reports to the Senate. They act by responding to emergencies, only in extreme situations, and mostly planning, referring, evaluating, and liaising.

I possess the skills and abilities to contribute meaningfully to the EC in carrying out the above responsibilities. A few discussed below:

1. I am extremely thorough.
 - a. Face issues before me with an open mind.
 - b. Informing myself before coming to conclusions.
 - c. Demonstrated through my thought process to declaring this very statement.
2. I am an effective advocate.
 - a. Known to discuss issues with the “right people,” articulate my well-informed position, and earn their support.
 - b. Demonstrated through presenting a Charge to the EC last week regarding the Student Health Insurance Policy.
3. I care deeply about Rutgers.
 - a. Rutgers will always be a part of me, and our legacy is the impact we have on our community. Maintaining a status quo or improving Rutgers will be a lifelong goal of mine.
 - b. Demonstrated through speaking up about health and safety concerns of our community for the past three years.

I hope I demonstrated why I am your trusted candidate. Please vote to elect me as your Newark Student Member of the Executive Committee. Thank you.

New Brunswick Student Member of the Executive Committee

Marie Yamaoka, School of Arts & Sciences – New Brunswick (S)

Hello, my name is Marie Yamaoka, and I am currently serving as the SAS Busch Senator. I have experience working within the Academic Affairs committee in RUSA, and I have actively contributed to the B.E.S.T. Resident’s Hall Association. I am particularly passionate about the student wellbeing, especially in advocating for mental health and financial insecurity. Although relatively new to the Senate, I hope that my broad perspective from my multinational background will help bring new insight to the Senate. Even living in a different time zone (+13 hours), I am committed to represent the students of the New Brunswick campus as a member of the executive board in order to continually sculpt Rutgers in a positive way. Thank you.

Student Representative to the Board of Governors

Abhishek Kashlikar, School of Environmental & Biological Sciences (S)

My name is Abhishek Kashalika. I am currently a senior. I am running to be the Student Representative to the Board of Governors. I have served in that position for 1 year and believe that I can serve another year. I have served in the Rutgers Senate for the past 2 years and I have gotten to know how the Rutgers Senate, and Board of Governors is conducted. We passed many resolutions together and we will still pass even more resolutions.

As I was the Student Representative to the Board of Governors in the last term, I was able to vote on few resolutions that was passed by the Rutgers Senate. I was big proponent in hiring Coach Greg Schiano as the next/returning Rutgers Football Head Coach who I believe will do a great job.. I have listened to many concerns of parents and students regarding their opposition to replacing Lincoln Annex school in New Brunswick with Rutgers Cancer institute. I share their concerns. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, I voted to approve the Tuition and Fee Freeze for the Academic year 2020-2021 for the undergraduates.

Finally, I ask that you please vote for me to be the next Student Representative to the Board of Governors and I will continue to advocate the voices not just from Rutgers Senate but to everyone in the university. I want to continue with the new administration to work on ways that we can hopefully return back to Rutgers.

Gavin Mayes, School of Arts & Sciences – New Brunswick (S)

The People's Ivy- a fitting, but misleading nickname for our house here on The Banks. Since its inception from the Rutgers Act, the Board of Governors has controlled the direction our university moves in with the input of a select few who actually experience daily life on campus. With fifteen successful individuals controlling the welfare and wellbeing of thousands to only have three non-voting individuals advise them, the Board appears to be more of an oligarchy than any form of government even remotely similar to that of self-governance by the people. While this remains the reality for now, change can always be made. We, the students, intend to pursue a change that would have a seat at their table and a vote for undergraduates from all three campuses, faculty and staff representatives, as well as a permanent spot for a graduate student. It is my intention to drive this change and it must be done from both inside and out of Rutgers, starting with the Board of Governors itself. I bring with me the support of the Student Body President and the Student Assembly, as well as experiences from participating in Navy ROTC, work in Rutgers Public Safety, and just being a Rutgers student. I see what goes on and know what can be changed, but I will always remain open to the ideas of others. Starting with amplifying our voice, I will work to make The People's Ivy feel less like a bureaucratic office and more like a home.

Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees

Hosen Arman, Camden College of Arts & Sciences (S)

Growing up in a family of six and not knowing what I would like to do in the future, one thing I have always been inspired about from childhood was driving change in our society. Throughout my life, I have been fortunate enough to have been guided by all of my family members, which has helped me be who I am today, as well as to learn from their perspectives. As an APIA (Asian and Pacific Islander American) and SHPEP (Summer Health Professions Education Program) scholar, I have been fortunate enough to meet with some amazing leaders that have shaped my life. I have also worked as a student partner at WileyPlus for our campus, an online platform used by most of the professors. Being a SHPEP (Summer Health Professions Education Program) ambassador for our campus, I have tried to increase the participation of low-income students in summer internships. In addition to that, I have participated in different summits as a delegate, as well as a panel speaker, which helped me share my perspectives with others. More importantly, I have done various model united nations as a delegate, chair, and ambassador. Moreover, I am working as a NJPIRG intern for our campus to promote civic engagement. More importantly, I have done various model united nations as a delegate, chair, and ambassador. Besides that, I did a fellowship this summer called Muslim Jewish Solidarity fellowship, where I am building relationships with my peers, community members and organizations to stand against hate through shared values and social action. I have also worked as a tutor for learning center. All of these experiences have shaped my life and gave me the ability to be an undergraduate student representative for Board of Trustees. The three goals I would like to see is creating a entrepreneurship hub to promote startup, making textbooks more affordable, and creating more internship opportunities to enhance job readiness.

Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees

Valentine Lamar, Graduate School - Newark (S)

I am seeking election as Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees, a position I served last year. I'm currently a graduate student at Rutgers SPAA and a second-year senator of Graduate School-Newark.

I'm an enthusiastic member of the RGPEC committee and on that end, I have recently helped draft a student survey to be utilized as part of materials for our standing charge.

I would like to return to the BOT because, last year, I showed commitment to attending meetings and participating in discussions that promote graduate student experience at Rutgers. Therefore, I'd like an

opportunity to continue to serve by speaking on issues and concerns that affect graduate student learning and development, and support services, especially during these uncertain and unprecedented times occasioned by the corona virus pandemic.

Robert Wayne, New Jersey Medical School (S)

I write to gain your approval, your vote, and ultimately your trust for Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees.

I joined the Rutgers community in 2016 as a student in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. I leveraged this for an opportunity to join the New Jersey Medical School, where I am entering my second year. I am grateful to our community for welcoming me with open arms. While apart of Rutgers, I have served as a member of the NJMS Student Council. I established and co-chair a Facilities Council which aims to improve the on-campus experience for each student. We have the ear of the deans' office and have had immense success. Student grievances ranging all four years of medical school have been addressed.

Additionally, I have a history within student government and a track-record of successfully serving students. While at the University of Texas, I served on the University Co-Op Board of Directors. During this time, the University Senate gathered support to pass measures which increased the hours campus libraries were accessible to students. This measure remains today, a statement to its success for students. Additional initiatives were also passed in my time involving campus-student safety. Similar measures would improve our various Rutgers locations.

These experiences were valuable to my development as a spokesman for students. I ask that you vote Robert Wayne for Board of Trustees. Thank you, Hook 'em Horns and Go Rutgers!