

# 2022-23 Senate Leadership Election Campaign Statements

(Elections for student and alumni positions will be held in early in the Fall 2022 semester)

## **Chair**

### **Robert Schwartz, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, Faculty**

I seek your support for the privilege of leading our University Senate. I am a member of the Senate Executive Committee, chair your Academic Standards Regulations and Admissions Committee (ASRAC) and have been our Board of Trustees representative. I have worked hard behind the scenes to bring Rutgers together, even testifying before the joint New Jersey State Senate-General Assembly Committee to unite the medical, dental, and allied health schools into Rutgers.

I draw upon my experience of many years on this faculty and my days as a student at the University of California Berkeley, four years in political science and a master's degree in public health. I think my years at UC Berkeley taught me much, especially about social issues and how much we faculty, staff, and students could achieve working together. I enjoy helping and mentoring students and colleagues, with whom I have collaborated on many articles and book chapters. There is more to our university than attaining scholarly recognition. What matters is what one does with it to help others.

My family is a Rutgers family. My son as a Rutgers student was a Senator elected three times to our Senate Executive Committee. I met my wife in the Rutgers faculty lounge. I believe I can bring seasoned leadership of stature to represent you in these challenging times. My goals are to emphasize collegiality, foster faculty, staff, and student academic and professional advancement, stress meaningful mentoring, embrace equity, and protect the integrity of our beloved academic community.

Attendance Statement: I have not missed a Senate meeting, Executive Committee meeting nor a meeting of the committee which I chair, Academic Standards Regulations and Admissions Committee (ASRAC), in the past two years.

### **Adrienne Simonds, School of Health Professions, Faculty**

I am seeking your vote for Senate Chair. I have served as a Senator for 3 years, as Vice Chair since January 2022, on the Executive Committee for the past 2 years, and in state and national leadership roles in the American Physical Therapy Association. I am a vocal member of the Research, Graduate and Professional Education Committee (RGPEC) with consistent, active attendance (39 out of 42 meetings in 3 years). As an Assistant Professor on the Teaching Track in the RBHS School of Health Professions and a healthcare provider, I value quality teaching, work-life balance, and authenticity. I have the leadership experience, character, and vision to lead the Senate as we collectively face a potential merger of medical schools, persistent pay equity issues, uncertainty in work expectations, and multiple, competing demands on our time.

I lead with organization, efficiency, and professionalism - values evident in my performance as Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair on Senate Culture and Leadership, structuring onboarding for the Executive Secretary,

forging collaborations with Senate leaders from the Big Ten Academic Alliance Conference, and working vocally and collaboratively with the President and his staff. I will explore three priority initiatives as Chair: 1) improved tracking of reports and administrative responses to promote accountability and visibility of our impact; 2) mentoring to facilitate connections and leadership succession; and 3) hybrid meeting options to promote realistic, engaged participation for all.

We need an organized, innovative, and efficient leader who values both process and outcome, respectfully listens, promotes civility and inclusion of all voices, embraces technology, and diligently advocates. Your time and Senate contributions are valuable. Let's make the Senate function more efficiently so all voices are heard, our work is valued in the University community, and you feel valued giving your time to shared governance at Rutgers. Thank you.

## **Vice Chair**

### **Lucille Foster, Newark Staff**

I am asking your consideration for my candidacy as a member of the University Senate to serve as a Newark Staff representative for Vice Chair. It has been a true privilege this past two years to work as Co-Chair of the ASRAC committee overseeing some timely and revised academic policy charges. Additionally, I have over 11 years at Rutgers serving as a Rutgers Newark Staff Council member & parliamentarian, Chair of Core Leadership, Co-Chair of professional development Committee, and member of the Diversity Council in Newark.

I have attended all meetings throughout the past two year and have greatly enjoyed working with the esteemed group of Rutgers staff, faculty and students. I hope to continue my service to you in this added role of in assisting the Chair and fellow senate members and will continue to provide for you a conduit of your opinions and ideas for improved services at Rutgers. I will serve as your advocate as I do with my students.

I hope you will consider my candidacy and I commit myself to do my best to ensure that the mission and goals of the university are met, and to ensure that all members of our Rutgers community are represented and heard. I thank you for your time and consideration of my candidacy.

## **Camden Faculty Member of the Executive Committee**

### **Ralph Giraud, School of Business-Camden, Faculty**

I am declaring my candidacy for Camden Faculty Member of the Rutgers University Executive Committee.

I started as Part-Time Lecturer in Finance for the Rutgers School of Business – Camden (RSBC) and Manager of its Financial Markets Lab in Fall 2013. I have been Full-Time Instructor of Professional Practice in Finance since 2016. This Spring, I became part of a RSBC Strategic Planning Committee, developing and executing initiatives for the next five years with focus on Societal Impact.

In a CFA Society of Philadelphia (CFAP) event on Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, five RSBC students and myself volunteered to work at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual CFAP Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Conference.

I am Co-Founder of the Rutgers Women of Business Alliance, the first RSBC student organization concentrating on issues for females concerning securing positions in different Business disciplines. I am also Faculty Advisor to our RSBC Student Finance Association, and I will be the Co-Advisor to the RSBC Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, containing Accounting and Finance students.

As Member of the Rutgers University Senate Student Advisory Committee since September 2018, I believe I have obtained valuable governing experience within the greater Rutgers University community. For the past year, I have been Camden Faculty Member of the Rutgers University Executive Committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration concerning my candidacy.

## **New Brunswick Faculty Member of the Executive Committee**

### **Sanjib Bhuyan, SEBS (F)**

I have been a member of the Rutgers University Senate since the second half of the 2003-04 AY representing the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS). I recently got reelected unopposed for another three-year term. I am a very active and effective member of the Senate's Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee (ASRAC). As a member of that committee, I have taken leadership responsibilities that include the following notable accomplishments: (i) streamlining procedures handling student complaints against Rutgers personnel regarding instruction, 2021-22, (ii) streamlining of University Policy 10.2.4 (Units of Credit) to make the definition of credit consistent with its use in current practice, 2020-2022, and (iii) revision of Rutgers Academic Integrity policy and development of an interim policy, passed by the Senate in May 2008 and again in Spring 2020, (v) recommend changes in student conduct policies due to changes in Title IX policy, and (iv) actively pursuing the inclusion of all four Faculty Councils in the University Policy Library (proposal passed by the Senate in Spring 2021, passed by the BOG in fall 2021, and it went into effect in January 2022)

I have had the experience and privilege of working with fellow faculty members, students, and various University administrators in my years of service in both the Senate and the New Brunswick Faculty Council. I have learned a great deal about how the University works, how things get done (or not done), and how to work with diverse groups with competing interests. I have also learned what is important for the long-term and sustainable reputation of the University, its faculty, staff, and students. With a new leadership at the helm of Rutgers, we have a new opening to enhance the role of shared governance. I therefore request you to give me the opportunity to utilize my years of experience in shared governance to work with the Senate leadership to set and implement an agenda that will benefit us all.

I sincerely thank you all for your consideration of my candidacy and ask for your vote.

### **Robert Boikess, SAS-NB (F)**

As a member of the Senate for close to 40 years, of the New Brunswick Faculty Council from its creation, and of countless committees, whose charges ranged from parking to athletics, and even to academics; I have learned a great deal. I have learned how things work; I have learned how to get things done; I have learned what matters.

Now is a very exciting time for Rutgers. Under our new administrative leadership, we are seeing the beginnings of a major culture shift. We are headed toward becoming not just a place where inclusion and diversity are valued, but also a true academic community of faculty, students, and staff. I ask you for the opportunity to use what I've learned to work with the leadership to set the agenda and to be an advocate for all constituencies so that we may become that true academic community.

My loyalty and my concern for Rutgers manifest themselves in a number of ways. Both of my sons are Rutgers alums and my family is grateful for how Rutgers launched them onto successful career paths. In my time at Rutgers I have taught chemistry to tens of thousands of students, many of whom now have successful careers in the health sciences or physical sciences. Their success is a great source of pride for me.

At Rutgers, one important venue for participation in decision making has been the University Senate, an almost unique shared governance body. But, in recent years, the influence of the University Senate has

diminished. One important reason I wish to serve on the Executive Committee is to work with the leadership to restore the University Senate to its proper role, as our preeminent shared governance body, representing all the constituencies of our community.

### **Martha Haviland, School of Arts & Sciences – RUNB**

Thank you very much for accepting my nomination to serve on the Executive Council of the University Senate representing Rutgers-NB faculty. I am an NTT Teaching Professor in the Division of Life Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences, and have served as a University Senator for one year. I am on the ASRAC committee and found the charges that we worked on this past year to be interesting, but even more, I very much appreciated having the opportunity to work with the other committee members on these important issues. If elected, I look forward to working with the other members of the Executive Council to help coordinate the activities of the Senate.

### **Tugrul Ozel, School of Engineering, Faculty**

I am a Senator representing School of Engineering and running for the New Brunswick Faculty seat at the Senate Executive Committee. I am seeking your vote.

I have been at Rutgers since 2002 and always a strong and open advocate for all constituents. I have served seven years at the faculty council as a member, vice chair, and chair (two years), immediate past chair and four years at the Senate.

I have served at the University Structure and Governance Committee leading the charge on Inclusion of Faculty Councils into University Policy library. I also advocated forming Rutgers Council on Faculty Councils, an effort to establish a vibrant and inclusive shared governance model at Rutgers together with all campus representatives and our President. During my term as faculty council chair, I connected faculty with the top university administrators for many fruitful conversations.

I would like to bring my expertise in shared governance to the Senate EC for working together with faculty, administrators, staff, students, and alumni at this premier shared governance body of our University.

I am also the right person not only for faculty but also staff, student, and alumni; an ambassador of connecting people and showcasing the work of shared governance bodies, a dedicated educator, and a celebrated researcher.

At Senate EC, I would like to continue my role as an emissary voice of all community members at the University and working with the administration to make Rutgers a truly beloved community.

### **RBHS Faculty Member of the Executive Committee**

#### **Gloria Bachmann, RWJMS, Faculty**

I would like to continue to contribute my support of the Rutgers faculty, staff and students as one of your representatives on the Rutgers Executive Council. Having been a Rutgers undergraduate and graduate student, and now a faculty member, I have a solid foundation to continue to build on. As well, being involved with initiatives/educational programs on many of the Rutgers campuses, I know and am committed to addressing many of the concerns and problem voiced by the Rutgers family; what is working and what is not. Currently, there are ongoing initiatives that I am committed to and would be honored to be elected to continue to serve in this capacity. In conclusion, I'm always available to hear suggestions/issues and concerns from the Rutgers faculty, staff and undergraduate/graduate students in order to have them addressed on the Executive Council and then move them forward.

### **Monica Roth, RWJMS, Faculty**

I am seeking election to the Rutgers Senate Executive Committee. As a tenured faculty at RWJMS, I have viewed my position to be the voice of our faculty, in particular the non-tenured faculty who may face consequences for asserting oppositional opinions. I have been elected by our faculty to serve in leadership within the RWJMS Faculty Council, the RBHS faculty council, as well as multiple terms on the Rutgers Senate. Within the Senate, I serve on the budget committee. On my watchlist for the Senate in the upcoming year include the continued discussion of merger between the two medical school, joint Chairpersons, and joint committees and programs, including the MD/PhD program and infrastructure investment. I also serve on the RWJMS Compensation, Transparency, Trends Committee and Chair the first-year student advisors in Molecular Bioscience. I run a funded research program within the Dept of Pharmacology. Election to serve on the Rutgers Senate Executive Committee will allow for continued communication of our facilities concerns to the larger Rutgers community.

### **Part-Time Lecturer Faculty Member of the Executive Committee**

#### **Karen Thompson, Part-Time Lecturer – New Brunswick, Faculty**

Our current resolution on principles of equity for PTLs attests to the ongoing progress my advocacy for PTLs in the Senate has addressed. My broad familiarity with Rutgers from years teaching in the New Brunswick English Department Writing Program, speaking to the Board of Governors, and participating in the PTL union gives me much experience on which to draw in helping to solve all sorts of problems.

Organizing PTLs into a union and leading many rounds of collective negotiations has given me practical experience addressing PTL concerns. I currently serve as the PTL Representative to the University Senate Executive Committee, as Senator for New Brunswick PTLs, as PTL representative to the New Brunswick Faculty Council, as representative to the NBFC Executive Committee, as well as serving on the PTLFC-AAUP-AFT Executive Board. I have also served on (and chaired) national committees of the AAUP, MLA, CCCC.

Access to tuition remission, a larger voice in shared governance, better integration into university life, and academic freedom for PTLs are among the (partial) successes for PTLs that have been achieved in the Senate during my terms. Adequate compensation for PTLs' service activities and financially supported health care are currently being addressed with my help but still await the administration's positive response. I look forward to success in those areas and shall work hard to achieve further advances professionalizing PTLs to the benefit of all in the Rutgers community. My record shows me an enthusiastic advocate for all faculty as well as students, staff, and alums.

### **Staff Member of the Executive Committee**

#### **Taryn Cooper, Staff-Camden**

When I first set out to be on the Senate two years ago, my main mission was to bring the conversation of disability related issues to the Rutgers University table. Two years later, I am currently a co-chair for the Instruction, Curricula, and Advising subcommittee. In this subcommittee, we have passed a charge that recognized the accommodation of extra testing time to be a time conflict that would require flexibility with exam scheduling. We are also currently working on a charge that examines all the Offices of Disability Services across the University to understand their work and the challenges they have faced during the pandemic and after. My mission is just starting to scratch the surface on topics, ideas, and change that can be brought to the University through the Senate. The passion that has been ignited amongst my fellow staff, faculty, and student senators is infectious and I cannot wait to see the work we can do in the future, if this is what we've accomplished in just two years. I would be honored to take place as the staff representative in the Executive Committee to continue the important work that we do as the Rutgers University Senate.

## **Adrienne Esposito, OIT – New Brunswick Staff**

My name is Adrienne Esposito, and I would be honored to serve on the Executive Committee of the Rutgers University Senate.

I have served as Chair of the Senate IT Committee for the past two years, and previously served on University Structure and Governance Committee for 2 terms.

As a Rutgers alumna, I hold a strong passion for the University, its faculty, staff and students. I have served Rutgers as a member of the OIT for over 20 years, initially as Associate Director for Computing Services on the Newark Campus, to my current role as Director for Enterprise Infrastructure.

I have a diverse background in leadership, operations, budgeting, strategic planning, and personnel practices. My experiences have allowed me to contribute to a number of Senate charges:

- S-2201: Approved Electronic Notebook Programs
- S-2109: Communication Mechanisms Regarding Major Changes in IT Applications
- A-1710: Policy on Centers and Institutes
- S-1604: Process for Unit Mergers or Other Structural Changes
- S-1403: Process for Unit Mergers
- S-1706: Sale of Alcohol in Stadiums (Member of Ad Hoc Committee)

I also represent Rutgers in several national higher education communities: Member of the BTAA (Big Ten Academic Alliance) Network Directors Group; Co-Chair for the EDUCAUSE Communications and Applications Community Group (CIA); and Member of NJEdge.

With my experience, enthusiasm for embracing leadership roles, and my pride as a Rutgers alumna and parent of Rutgers graduates, I possess a multi-dimensional understanding of the unique needs – and great strengths – of our University. Thank you for your consideration.

## **Camden Student Member of the Executive Committee**

### **Michael Van Stine, Camden Graduate School**

I am currently a PhD and MA History of Law student at Rutgers Camden. I am also a Pathway One Law Student preparing to take the NY bar examination. I completed both my undergraduate BA in Political Science and my MPA with a concentration in Community Development at Rutgers Camden. I graduated undergrad Magna Cum Laude and have maintained a 4.0 GPA through all my graduate work. I am currently representing clients in our Veterans Law Clinic and taking both Labor Law and Professional Responsibility courses.

I have past served in the Senate since 2014. I have served on the Senate Executive Committee from 2017-to 2021. I have also past served on both our Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee and our Research, and Graduate and Professional Education Committee. I have two active charges which passed the EC, S-2111 Late Course Add/Policies and S-2112 Free Speech Issues at Rutgers and the University Senate Role. I am so sad to be unable to work with the help of our past leader and mentor, Peter Gillett. His passing has left a huge hole in my heart. But I feel motivated and compelled to continue to try and excel in our Senate as he would have wanted all of us to do. I have been equally proud to work under past President Ann Gould and now our current and most distinguished President, Jon Oliver.

I would be most honored for your support in allowing me to serve again on the Executive Committee. Thank you.

## **New Brunswick Student Member of the Executive Committee**

### **Victoria Den Bleyker, SAS-NB (S)**

Victoria Den Bleyker is currently an SAS Senator who serves on the Executive Committee and is looking to be reelected. She offers a unique student perspective and plans on bringing more attention to the successes and work of the senate by using her talents in digital media and communication. She has a strong background in foreign language and journalism. She has a passion for activism and has been involved in United Nations volunteer efforts Youth Entrepreneurship Leadership and Development in Kenya. After earning her Spanish seal of biliteracy she started her own international digital marketing firm, VDB Digital, where she specializes in web design, account management, photography, graphic design, email marketing, and search engine optimization. She is the social chair of Phi Sigma Pi, a national honor fraternity at Rutgers University where she is also a student senator and was public relations chair of RUSA for 9 months, during which she passed a successful zoom safety bill which established guidelines for cybersecurity. She collaborated on anti-stealth acts, publishing committee surveys, and also served as the Election Commission Vice Chair in September 2021. She committed to service and is a Girl Scout gold award recipient for her mental health project Take10 and meditation app she developed called Serenity Now, something that only 5% of Girl Scouts Who apply achieve, and was awarded the Kiefer Stevens Memorial scholarship. Her aptitude for service and creativity have gone a long way and she can't wait to serve you!

### **Sonal Gahlawat, School of Graduate Studies (S)**

Hi, my name is Sonal Gahlawat, and I am a 4th-year Ph.D. candidate in Biomedical Engineering Department. I am also the outgoing President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) at Rutgers University.

As an engineer by profession, I enjoy identifying problems to fix them. I emphasize finding the strong and weak links to understand how things work, what doesn't work, and what needs to change to engineer valuable outcomes. Elected as the President in 2021, I aspired to create new opportunities for graduate students to develop personally, professionally, and academically. Under my leadership, the GSA has re-established itself as the voice of the graduate students. I have developed successful relationships with the University's leadership which enabled us to build a culture of transparency and communicate some of the crucial issues affecting the graduate students. We also created special committees to focus on three key areas of graduate student needs: mental health, health and nutrition, and DEI initiatives. Lastly, it was the first time that SGS Senators worked together with the GSA to build a more cohesive graduate student community that brought us closer together. I hope to work together to raise voices against issues affecting graduate students to create an outstanding and meaningful graduate school experience for all graduate and professional students. As a strong leader with significant leadership experience, I firmly believe that I will be a great candidate to serve as the NB Student Member of the EC.

## **Board of Governors Faculty Representative**

### **Sam Rabinowitz, School of Business-Camden, Faculty**

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served in a number of roles through the University Senate for well over the last three decades; currently as Faculty Representative to the Board of Governors and in the just completed role of co-chair of the Ad hoc Committee on Senate Culture and Leadership and previously as University Senate Chair and Vice Chair, co-chair of the Student Affairs Committee, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees, member of the Senate Executive Committee, and Chair of the Academic Calendar and Commencement Committee. I have had the opportunity through these experiences to meet and work with many esteemed colleagues within the Senate, around all campuses, and on the Boards of Rutgers University. I wish to continue my contribution by serving as a Faculty Representative to the Board of Governors.

It is important to have respectful and respected representation on the various Board committees and I believe that I have been and would continue to be a positive and effective voice in this regard. Those who are on the Rutgers boards are there because of a passion and concern for the continued growth of the university. I share that passion with them. The many bonds that I have built with members of the entire Rutgers community of stakeholders will aid me in being effective in this role. As examples, this ongoing relationship allowed me to engage in numerous conversations which were a vital part of keeping our Camden campus part of Rutgers as well as inform board members of Senate actions which they might not be aware of without our interaction. Thanks for giving me a moment of your busy day (and hopefully your vote as well)!

## **Board of Governors Student Representative**

### **Fauzan Amjad, School of Arts & Sciences – New Brunswick, Student**

When I was in sixth grade, my science class took a field trip to the Rutgers Engineering Department where engineering students led a workshop on building non-electrical water pumps. Having no previous engineering experience, I was inspired by their passion and intrigued by their problem-solving mindset - little did 6th grade me know that I would dedicate the next seven years to the STEM field. As a freshman, Rutgers was pivotal in helping me launch BabySafeHealth.com - a machine learning application to analyze past infant mortality data to provide mothers with insight into their pregnancy's potential health consequences. Rutgers has helped me conduct primary research into the emotional fears and social issues regarding the pregnancy process at New Jersey Medical School, helped me seal \$25,000 in grant funding, and combined my interest in artificial intelligence with the sciences by giving me the opportunity to develop deep learning models to track zebra finch behavior in Professor Vicario's laboratory. Because of the influence Rutgers has had on my life, Rutgers will always share a special place in my heart. I want others to feel the same way I do about the greatest university in the country. As the Board of Governors Student Representative, I believe my diverse background and determination will bring a unique perspective to the table, and I'll work to address infrastructure concerns, increased mental health emergencies, transparency concerns between the University Senate and both Rutgers Governing Boards, and work to provide more equitable entrepreneurship, research, and academic programs.