

# *Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters*

American Association of University Professors - American Federation of Teachers

**For Immediate Release  
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**Statement by Lisa C. Klein, PhD,  
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As President of the Rutgers faculty union, I wish to express my respect and support for the students of our Rutgers Women's Basketball Team. Our students are the community we serve as faculty and staff at the state university. We treasure all of our students. We cannot ignore this direct, unwarranted, and degrading attack on the reputation and honor of our students who are hard-working, dedicated, and the future leaders of our society. The so-called joke told by radio talk show host, Don Imus, is explicitly racist and sexist; we deplore such remarks. We, as educators, feel it is our responsibility to defend our students against such corrosive speech-acts that threaten the integrity of our society.

It is time for all of us to recommit ourselves to challenging racism and sexism and its effects on our society. On behalf of our members, the Executive Council of the Rutgers AAUP-AFT, at its meeting on April 19, 2007, will take up a resolution expressing our respect and support for our student-athletes and calling for action that creates a more civil media discourse.

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Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters is affiliated nationally with the American Federation of Teachers and the American Association of University Professors. We represent over 5,500 members at Rutgers University, including full-time faculty, graduate student employees, part-time lecturers and professional staff (including the Educational Opportunity Fund Counselors) at the Camden, Newark, and New Brunswick campuses.