

On behalf of the Rutgers Community, we send our sincere congratulations to graduating seniors but regret to inform you that

Rutgers is in Trouble

Rutgers suffers from a crisis of leadership rather than a financial crisis. The core academic mission is no longer the McCormick administration's top priority. The Board of Governors must act to shift priorities before the damage to Rutgers is irreversible.

Never has the relationship between the administration and students and their parents been worse.

Students and their parents are paying more than ever. According to the "Project on Student Debt" average NJ student debt is \$22,731 upon graduation. Debt for students at public universities has grown by 20% since 2004. Although Rutgers is one of the most expensive public universities in the country, McCormick lobbies the Legislature to end tuition caps. The President's response to the concerns of students expressed in campus forums, protests or public debate, is patronizing with no meaningful dialogue.

Never has the relationship between Rutgers University and the State of New Jersey been worse.

No-bid contracts, executive-level bloat, and spending scandals are hurting Rutgers' reputation and undermining support from the state. New Jersey ranks 43rd in spending for higher education—dedicating a mere 4.1% of the budget for all institutions. Funding by the state has been cut much more than the bad economy requires. State funding has now dropped to the same dollar amount as it was in 1994, and students and their families have borne the cost through skyrocketing tuition and fee increases. Rutgers administration has shown a serious lack of leadership in Trenton.

Never has the relationship between the administration and the faculty and staff been worse.

The Rutgers administration has declared a salary freeze in violation of agreements with all campus unions—but provided raises and bonuses for top executives. While the other public colleges and universities in New Jersey have honored their agreements, Rutgers is holding back staff and faculty raises permanently. Faculty and staff are all doing more for less.

Rutgers working conditions are Rutgers learning conditions:

The Rutgers One Coalition is students, staff, faculty, and alumni united to defend quality public higher education.

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