

**BOG Meeting, Friday July 20, 2007**

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Board of Governors on the subject of the proposed university budget. I am Lisa Klein, Professor II of Materials Science and Engineering, School of Engineering, Busch Campus. I am proud to say that I have been at Rutgers for 30 years. I come to you today as the President of the Rutgers Council of AAUP-AFT. Our members include the full time faculty, all teaching and graduate assistants, part-time lecturers and professional staff in the EOF Program.

The University Budget is a moral document. It affects the lives of tens of thousands of students, faculty, and staff. As you consider this document today, please think of its impact on the work that we do as faculty—our instruction, our research and our service. Please further consider the impact on our classrooms, our labs and our extension programs that serve the residents of New Jersey.

Finally, give special consideration to the impact our university budget will have on teaching assistants, part-time lecturers, non-tenure track faculty, and our Educational Opportunity Fund counselors—all of whom received no raise on July 1 because our contracts have expired.

New Jersey state workers and the Governor were able to settle contract negotiations before the state budget was approved in June. We expected nothing less when we began our negotiations with the university earlier this year. I urge you today to direct your negotiating team members to work diligently over the coming weeks to settle on fair contracts for all Rutgers employees, including our staff colleagues who are now represented by the Union of Rutgers Administrators.

Thank you for your time and attention.