

Text of President McCormick's March 25, 2009 Response to the November 2008 Senate Report and Recommendations on Charge S-0710, Tuition Remission for Part-Time Lecturer Faculty:

I am writing in response to the Report and Recommendations on Charge S-0710 on Tuition Remission for Part-Time Lecturer Faculty, as adopted by the University Senate on November 21, 2008. The members of the Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee have my appreciation for their attention to this issue.

I recognize the important contribution that part-time lecturers make to our instructional offerings and have been supportive of efforts to provide opportunities for professional development to Rutgers PTLs. The most recent PTL contract doubled the funds available for professional development activities related to instructional assignments, and I have been pleased by the number and variety of activities proposed and supported. However, I am unable to support the proposed amendment to University Regulation 60.2.1, which would extend a 50% tuition remission benefit to currently employed PTLs who have taught 12 or more credits at Rutgers. As proposed, the amendment defines both the scope of entitled employees and the range of eligible courses too broadly to be feasible in the current fiscal climate. And while I appreciate the intention of limiting course enrollment to those with spaces available during the add/drop period, that provision creates considerable administrative complications for implementing such a benefit. Indeed, in the current economic climate, we must focus our attention on filling all available spaces with full-time students or adjusting our course offerings to accommodate the needs and interests of those students.

In short, regrettably, the proposed tuition benefit program would represent too great a burden for Rutgers to assume at this time, given the full range of constraints currently facing the university.