

To: The RUTGERS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

December 13, 2011

It is at once depressing and disturbing to think that a premier institution of such widespread international standing as Rutgers has in some ways lost its way. And yet what else can national education leaders think when news reports spread informing us that funds that should be used for teaching and research are diverted to support an athletics program that the administration seems to find it impossible to control? What else can the national AAUP think when an administration clumsily gives non-unionized employees salary increases and bonuses while imposing salary freezes on others in violation of union contracts? What else can those of us with colleagues and friends we admire at Rutgers think when we learn that they must suffer the indignity of watching ill-advised building projects, administrative bloat, and other irresponsible capital projects proceed unchecked when Rutgers' primary missions and the staff that support them suffer from neglect?

The national AAUP urges the Rutgers Board of Governors to direct the administration to bargain in good faith, honor its legal obligations, and provide faculty and staff with the fair compensation they deserve. We urge the Rutgers Board of Governors to help the administration adjust its priorities so as to reduce the increasing burden of student debt. There is still time to return Rutgers to the list of institutions notable for solving educational problems, rather than exacerbating them. We urge the Rutgers administration to partner once again with its AAUP/AFT faculty unions to work together in restoring a rational and progressive agenda for reform at one of the great universities of the world.

Cary Nelson



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