



December 14, 2011

Ralph Izzo
Chair, Rutgers Board of Governors
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
57 US Highway 1
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8554

Rutgers Board of Governors
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57 US Highway 1
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8554

Dear Chairman Izzo and Members of the Rutgers Board of Governors:

The American Federation of Teachers stands in solidarity with the Rutgers University AAUP-AFT and the Union of Rutgers Administrators in calling on the Rutgers University Board of Governors to work in good faith with the members of the Rutgers community to resolve long-standing disputes at one of nation's premier public research institutions.

While Rutgers students watch the cost of attendance steadily increase, faculty members and staff - the majority of whom belong to a union - have seen their contracts, which were bargained with and signed by the administration, violated as negotiated wage increases have been ignored for the last two years. Adding to the indignity, non-unionized employees at Rutgers have been offered wage increases and in addition, money continues to be lavished on new building projects and subsidies for the school's athletics program. The voices of faculty, staff, and students in the institution's budget process have been met with indifference.

It is not a question of whether or not Rutgers University has the money to meet its contractual obligations to its employees. It is a question of priorities: does the Rutgers University Board of Governors value providing quality, affordable public higher education to students in New Jersey? Their actions with regard to their employees will ultimately answer this.

Sincerely,

Randi Weingarten
President

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American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
AFT Healthcare

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cc: Mark Bostic, Regional Director, Northeast Region, AFT
Adrienne Eaton, President, Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters
Larry Gold, Director, Higher Education, AFT