



Rutgers faculty and staff AFT locals. Online at www.afrutgers.org.

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Contact: Nat T. Bender, 908-377-0393 (cell)
nbender@aftnj.org

University Workers Call on Rutgers Board of Governors for Respect
Rutgers management only group in state to attempt break of 2009 deferral agreements

NEW BRUNSWICK...Thousands of Rutgers employees deferred raises last year by signing agreements to give Rutgers additional economic stability for two years, according to testimony Lucye Millerand delivered to Rutgers' Board of Governors today. "Rutgers management's announced intention to renege on a deal patterned on state worker agreements, which are being honored everywhere else throughout the state, shows a serious lack of respect for university workers," she said.

That announcement came June 10 from Rutgers executive vice president Dr. Phil Furmanski in a public message negating scheduled raises for more than 10,000 unionized staff and faculty who agreed to defer increases in 2009.

Rutgers Labor Coalition, a working group of unions representing 10,000 workers at the state university including the majority of faculty and staff, doctors and police, joined together to call on the Board of Governors to reverse management's decision. The Board of Governors has general supervision over the conduct, management and administration of Rutgers, according to its bylaws. "We are calling on the Board of Governors to exercise its authority and reverse management's unfortunate decision," said Millerand, president of the 2,000 member Union of Rutgers Administrators-AFT. She questioned management's motives for breaking the agreement since enrollment continues to rise and grants constitute an increasing portion of the funding mix so state dollars comprise less than one-quarter of the total \$1.8 billion budget. "This is not about Rutgers not having the money," said Millerand. "This is a clear cut case of management using the excuse of a fiscal crisis to undermine collective bargaining and weaken the unions. It is an anti-worker, anti-family and anti-union action and we are calling on the Board of Governors to put it to a stop."

The unions are cooperating on a series of grievances, unfair labor practices charges and a joint request for expedited arbitration. Action by the Board of Governors directing management to honor the agreements will save the university the wasteful expense of a protracted legal battle, according to Millerand.

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Union of Rutgers Administrators-AFT
75 Paterson Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Phone: 732-745-0300 | Fax: 732-745-0400
www.ura-aft.org



AAUP-AFT
RUTGERS

Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters-AFT
11 Stone Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1113
Phone: 732-964-1000 | Fax: 732-964-1032
www.rutgersaaup.org