

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Rutgers One Delivers 6,000-Plus Petition Calling on University to Pay Frozen Wages**  
*McCormick Public Statements Ring Hollow as Rutgers Workers Lag Behind Rest of State*

NEWARK...Rutgers workers have gone the longest without a raise among state workers, despite President Richard McCormick's public statements that he intends to pay long withheld raises, according to the Rutgers One faculty, staff, student and alumni coalition. "Rutgers management withheld negotiated raises in 2009, asked for and received an agreement from us to defer then withheld the deferred raises again last year," said Lucye Millerand, President of the Union of Rutgers Administrators-American Federation of Teachers, which represents approximately 2,000 campus workers. The union is a part of the Rutgers One coalition of faculty, staff, students and alumni which generated more than 6,000 signatures calling for affordable tuition and fair treatment of workers, delivered to the university's Board of Governors meeting today.

During a public address last month, President McCormick claimed he wanted to pay withheld wages, but has made no offer that would come close to paying what workers deferred. The unions are in arbitration to win back the withheld wages. "After the initial negotiated deferrals, state workers, including our peers at the nine state colleges and universities received increases for the full value of negotiated wages without penalty so their salaries were made whole at the end of the last contract," said Millerand. "President McCormick and the university honor generous agreements with highly-paid executives, athletics personnel including coaches and his own agreement to return as the highest-paid faculty member. I don't understand the resistance to fair treatment for Rutgers every day workers who actually have bills to pay and families to feed."

Students are continuing to advocate for fairness for Rutgers workers and a more democratically-run university. At last month's address, one student asked McCormick and Board of Governors members if they understood the economic insecurity Rutgers workers faced. Another reminded the President that keeping tuition affordable and paying workers negotiated raises were dual demands, presented from a unified campus community.

**[MORE]**



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**PAGE TWO: Rutgers One Delivers 6,000-Plus Petition Calling on University to Pay Frozen Wages**

Newark Arts and Sciences Student Government Association President Cabo Granato pointed out that Rutgers faculty and staff deferred raises to save the university millions of dollars in good faith. "There is no reason university management and the BOG shouldn't honor that

agreement in full," Granato said. "Exploitative actions of university management undermine the academic environment and resonate on campus like a personal attack on my education."

In addition to the 6,000 Rutgers community members signing the petition calling for a commitment to affordable tuition and ending the salary freeze, several hundred professors signed onto a letter pointing out that much of the withheld money came to the university through external grants actually budgeted and paid for without impacting the university's cash reserves. Rutgers AAUP-AFT faculty union President Adrienne Eaton said, "This is an example of extremely poor management to throw away external dollars already set aside to compensate our researchers. The Board of Governors must take action before the university's research program is further imperiled."

College of Nursing Professor Claudia Beckmann expressed concern that university management's priorities are focused on construction rather than the educational and research mission of the university. "Teaching and research are the human capital that make those buildings live," said Beckmann, President of the Rutgers-Newark Chapter of the faculty union.

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