



Union of Rutgers Administrators-AFT



Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters-AFT

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**Rutgers Layoff Plans Contrary to Economic Stimulus Intent**  
*Unions Leaders Continuing to Advocate for Funding While Opposing Layoffs*

NEW BRUNSWICK... Rutgers management's announced plans to lay off workers and raise tuition are misguided and disregard the intent of federal stimulus dollars allocated for New Jersey higher education, according to American Federation of Teachers (AFT) leaders at Rutgers. Correspondingly, faculty and staff unions representing more than 7,000 workers at the state university are publicly opposing threatened layoffs as bad policy that will hurt the university.

Rutgers management has not approached the AFT member unions with any request to discuss opening their contracts, according to AAUP-AFT faculty union president Lisa Klein. "We have ongoing communication with the administration on many issues. The budget however, has not been shared with us except through mass e-mails to the entire university," she said. Klein reports that union members have been actively working with legislators to restore stimulus funding to higher education, as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) requires. "In the meantime, messages about laying off workers are counterproductive and premature," she said.

The American Federation of Teachers worked to shape the ARRA (stimulus bill) to include funds for higher education. Union leaders note that the Governor's budget initial proposal was formulated before the federal guidelines on stimulus spending were released. These guidelines clearly state that the funds must be used to restore cuts to higher education and must be sent directly to institutions of higher education, such as Rutgers.

"Old Queens is building fear and confusion among the staff," said URA-AFT staff union president Lucye Millerand. "Why lay off the employees who work most closely with students when we are trying to increase our enrollment?" Citing an announcement from President McCormick that we must "work together because of the budget crisis," Millerand questioned whether high level executives at the university would be laid off.

AFT Rutgers, comprised of AAUP-AFT faculty and the URA-AFT staff local, is committed to high-quality, affordable public education at the state university. The locals participated with national AFT efforts to include higher education in the federal stimulus plan and are actively advocating that Governor Corzine's proposed budget allocate its fair share to the state's colleges and universities.

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