

ROWAN UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
November 21, 2011  
**SOUTH JERSEY MERGER- Dr. Houshmand**

**Called to Order: 7:07pm**

**Discussion:**

- Governor Sent Recommendation
- Medical School will be enhancement of the school
- 183,000 undergraduates in New Jersey- 30% in South Jersey
- Higher Education in South Jersey is lower than North Jersey and National Average
- Expansion of undergraduate seats, graduate seats, and research to Rowan
- If recommendation is accepted, Governor has 60 days to accept or reject
- Rowan University name will remain the same
- Glassboro, NJ will become the main campus
- \$2.5 million added to financial aid by the Board of Trustees

**Questions & Answers:**

1. Signed Petition- against merger
  - a. Rowan will do everything they can with regards to the increase in tuition.
- Dr. Houshmand collected petition to read and review
2. Will the value of a Rowan degree increase or decrease?
  - a. Whether the merger goes through or not, the value of a Rowan University degree will go up.
3. Which schools are included in the merger?
  - a. Rutgers Camden, Rowan Camden, Rowan Glassboro, Cooper Medical
4. If a majority of the Rowan students vote against the merger, would they reject it?
  - a. The merger will only make the school better, if there are concerns or issues bring them to SGA. If accepted, the merger will go through either way. Students opinions do matter and will have an impact.
5. What issues will arise from the merger?
  - a. Four universities merging have never been done before. There will be issues in the different teaching styles, housing departments, honor to school but the issues will fade during the merger process.
6. Would departments be moved to another campus?
  - a. Rowan University would stay compacted. All majors located at current colleges will remain where they are.
7. At what point will students and faculty start to prepare for the merger?
  - a. Faculties are already preparing. As soon as a final decision has been made, the students will be informed.
8. Will the admission requirements change for each school in the merger?
  - a. The admission requirements would be combined to make the programs better.

9. Would class size increase?
  - a. An expansion of buildings will increase (Tech Park) before class size. Rowan is known for their small class sizes and it will stay that way.
10. Would we have "Publish Parish" professors as a research based institution?
  - a. A faculty based on teaching ability will remain. The culture of Rowan will not change.
11. Is my degree going to lose credential in Engineering?
  - a. No, the school name will not change or the location of the engineering department.
12. Will there be an increase in teaching assistants and adjuncts?
  - a. We will always have teaching assistants and adjuncts. The number will expand only due to the expansion of the school. The ratio of full time faculty to part time will remain the same.
13. Is the merger related to Rowan or the state saving money?
  - a. No money is involved. Rowan University will only increase the amount of funding the school receives from the government.
14. Mergers have failed, why is this one different?
  - a. If it is for the right reason, and the right college, the merge will be successful.
15. If the merger does not happen, will Rowan be doing anything?
  - a. Either way, the governor will be making an executive decision on Rowan.

**Adjournment: 7:38pm**