

**Robert S. Boikess**, Chemistry, Rutgers University

### Candidate Biography

Born and raised in Brooklyn

BA, MA, PhD Columbia University

Joined faculty of Douglass College, Rutgers University in 1968; At Rutgers ever since.

Chair, Department of Chemistry and Director of the Graduate Program 1984-93

Author of a number of widely used Chemistry textbooks.

Research in Physical Organic Chemistry and Chemical Education.

Study Abroad Director

Teacher and coordinator of the very large mainstream Organic Chemistry course.

Many years of activism at Rutgers as a University Senator, Senate committee chair, and member of the Senate Executive Committee; in the Faculty Council as a member, member of the Executive Committee, and Council committee chair; as a member of the Academic Athletic Oversight Committee; as a frequent and committed participant in the Student Judicial process, as an advisor to student organizations, and as a member or chair of innumerable other University committees.

Many years of AAUP activism. as chair of the Negotiating Committee for three 4 year contracts; member Executive Council since early 1980's; member Steering Committee; active Grievance Counselor since the late 1970's with many successful outcomes,

chair or member of many AAUP committees.

### Candidate Statement

The changes in American higher education that we have all been experiencing in recent years present new and formidable challenges. It is not an exaggeration to describe our situation as dire.

More than 40 years ago when I first became active in the AAUP, we never dreamed that battles that had been won after years of struggle and activism would reemerge to be fought all over again.

We never dreamed that systematic and pervasive underfunding for higher education would lead university administrations to transform the academic university into the corporate university.

We never dreamed that rights as fundamental as academic freedom and tenure would come under attack as part of a tactic to advance a political agenda beyond higher education.

We never dreamed that a very substantial fraction of instruction would be provided by a group of faculty, who, despite their significant contributions to the education of the students, would not be afforded some of the most fundamental rights and protections that we all took almost for granted.

If high quality higher education is to continue to be one of the major reasons for the scientific and intellectual world leadership of the United States, we must take on these new challenges.

We must ensure that the protections of academic freedom are provided to everyone in the academic community.

We must ensure that fundamental employee rights are provided to everyone working in higher education.

We must ensure that priorities are primarily educational not corporate, that they are set by faculty, and implemented by administrations.

We must ensure a strong united front in combating external political and economic threats to higher education.

It is for these reasons and to achieve these goals that I wish to serve on the Council. In these critical times, I feel I must do what I can to represent my colleagues and contribute my experience and skills. Those with whom I've worked over the years know that I am a fierce, stubborn, and determined advocate for what I believe is right.

Please give me the opportunity to contribute on this bigger stage.