



25 November 2017

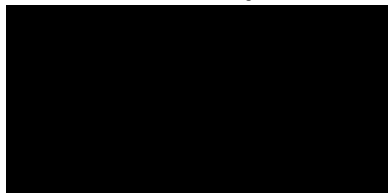
Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, President  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
110 8th Street  
Troy NY 12180

Dear President Jackson:

As an alumnus, I have read with great disappointment about the efforts of the Rensselaer administration to take away, against their wishes, the rights of students to self-govern their Union. I was further upset to read of the efforts of the administration to censor and suppress the right of students and alumni to peacefully protest this overreach of power, including judicial inquiries against students involved in the most recent protest.

I know many alumni have reacted similarly to these shameful actions, so I will not repeat their points. Instead, I will simply say that, unless the administration restores full student control of the Union, and drops all actions against protesters, I regret that I will no longer be able to support RPI, financially or otherwise.

Sincerely,



cc: Board of Trustees  
Office of Alumni Relations



# Rensselaer

Vice President for Institute Advancement  
Chasan Building  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
110 8th Street, Troy, NY 12180-3590

p: (518) 276-6247  
f: (518) 276-6301  
www.giving.rpi.edu

December 8, 2017



Dear [REDACTED]

Dr. Jackson shared with me your recent correspondence. I would like to take this opportunity to provide key facts about the matter you addressed.

While the Student Union runs its own activities, clubs, and programs, and fully administers its budget, the Student Union is - and always has been - a responsibility of the university. The Student Union Director has consistently been classified as a Rensselaer employee, and, as such, has been hired according to the university's policies and procedures, with critical input from the students. Any information that you have read or heard that contradicts these facts is erroneous.

Rensselaer supports free speech, including the rights of students to peacefully protest. Institute policies and procedures, intended to ensure the safety of all individuals involved, include an approval process for demonstrations. While the Dean of Students repeatedly invited the applicant representing the group to discuss alternative dates, times, and sites, the student did not respond or propose a mutually acceptable, and safe, arrangement. As such, the demonstration that took place on October 13 was in violation of Rensselaer policies and was met with the appropriate response from our Public Safety personnel, who are charged with preserving the safety of our students and campus guests. Particularly significant that evening was the concern about maintaining a proper perimeter surrounding a large fireworks display, as the law requires.

Rensselaer uses judicial and non-judicial meetings to address apparent violations of university policies and procedures. These meetings serve a means not only to address the violation, but also to educate the student by providing a learning experience. In addition, these meetings will follow strict university guidelines regarding student privacy.

There is much to be proud of at Rensselaer. We have achieved significant growth among our student population and across campus over the past 18 years under the leadership of President Shirley Ann Jackson.

Applications for admission to Rensselaer have surged from 5,000 in 1999 to nearly 20,000 this year. We have welcomed the most diverse student body in the history of the Institute, with women now making up more than 30% of the student body. Demand for our graduates is also at an all-time high, with many of our students receiving multiple job offers.

Annual research expenditures have increased from \$35 million to over \$100 million, which we firmly attribute to Dr. Jackson's visionary development of *The Rensselaer Plan*. In accordance with *The Plan*, the campus has been transformed, positioning Rensselaer for a successful third century.

Once again, thank you for contacting me. I hope you will reconsider supporting Rensselaer and our students in the future.

Sincerely,

Graig R. Eastin  
Vice President, Institute Advancement