



2021 Presidential Search Committee Nomination Form

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Thu, Nov 7, 2019 at
11:52 AM

Prefix, First Name, Last Name	Mr. Steven Bloom
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Position Title (if applicable)	B.S. Accounting and Economics, Class of 2008; Former Student Trustee, 2007-2008
Years of Service with Ramapo College (if applicable)	4 years as a student, 6 years an alumnus
I am interested in serving on the 2021 Presidential Search Committee as a representative of the:	RCNJ Alumni Association
Please select one:	As a representative of the RCNJ Alumni, I affirm that this nomination has the endorsement of the RCNJ Alumni Association.
Affirmation of Understanding	I have reviewed and I accept the 2021 Presidential Search Committee Charge, Statement of Understanding for Committee Members, and Search Process Timeline.
Reason for Service. Please describe why you are interested in serving on the 2021 Presidential Search Committee and how you may add value and insight to the Committee's process and deliberations. (500 word maximum)	Since concluding my term as the Student Trustee to the RCNJ Board of Trustees in 2008, I have remained involved not only in the RCNJ community as a member of the ASB Alumni but also in the greater conversation about the impact of higher education on our society. I have published and presented articles in academic publications and at the Eastern Economic Association on the lack of state funding in higher education, student loans, and student loan impacts on first time home purchases. What these accomplishments show is that during the search process that I will be able to leverage not only my professional experiences (across a wide spectrum of accounting/finance roles in different industries), but also have remained part of the broader discussion about higher education and its role in our society. Additionally, during my professional career, I have hired a team individually and as part of a panel, which will also assist me and the committee, if selected. These experiences have grounded me that we not only need someone well versed in the inner workings of higher education and its internal stakeholders, but someone who is innovative and can connect with stakeholders in government and in business as the role of higher education evolves in the 21st century. As a member of the ASB Alumni Board as mentioned previously, I also understand what it means to be the voice of the alumni, who are a critical part of the institution's future and its evolution to remain a leader. During my time as a student leader, I was also fortunate to have a voice in approving the last strategic plan refresh of the college. I bring this up as to highlight my ability to understand a strategic vision from multiple points of view, which I believe is critical to better understand prospective candidates for this role. Having the candidates be able to share this vision throughout the process is fundamentally the core task of a panel that is part of this search.

I was fortunate to have been part of Ramapo for 4 years and have been able to work with President Mercer. He set the tone of transforming Ramapo from a NJ focused school into one that is a leader in the Northeast corridor in focusing on the pillars of RCNJ that are so critical to its mission: academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding. In addition, he set the tone of furthering areas that are so critical in the 21st century: ASB accreditation, campus expansion, academic research, and the integration of technology in the classroom. He has done this despite funding challenges and pressures to remain affordable. Having seen Ramapo have these experiences, I believe that we, as a college, have a strong foundation to build upon and it is critical to have a voice on the selection committee that understands where we, as an institution have been, to better shape where we want to go.

Vision for the Search.
Please describe your vision for the search process. (350 word maximum)

I believe that the vision for the search process begins with a discussion with all stakeholders regarding the roadmap of the college (focusing on the successes/areas of improvement of the past, present, and their views of the future). I believe a SWOT analysis of RCNJ's role within higher education in the NE corridor is also important. If conditions permit, I believe an in-depth discussion with Pres. Mercer on his views of the same is critical.

Once the historical context and the strength and opportunities of RCNJ are identified, I believe then it is time to seek out qualified candidates for the role. As the committee begins to narrow the candidates to a more manageable yet diverse pool of candidates, I think the areas of focus need to be on ensuring that the candidate understands the culture of the college, as previously mentioned, as well as has experiences of focusing on the items identified in the SWOT analysis as a leader at an institution of some form.

Once finalists are selected and arrive on campus, I think it is critical that all stakeholders have an opportunity to meet in private with each of the candidates to ask whatever questions they feel are important to select the candidate that not only understands the stakeholders role and goals at the College but also is able to work across the shared governance model and gain a consensus on many of the opportunities and challenges that this individual will face. I believe that the feedback provided by each group should be a certain part of the discussion/evaluation that the committee will use to select the next President

Finally, I believe that an open forum where those individuals not able to meet the finalists should occur where the finalists can share their vision of the college in the future understanding where we are and have been. Any feedback from those open forums shall also be included in the final selection as well. It is also critical for these finalists to be able to ask any questions and see any information so this process is mutually acceptable.

Top Five. Please describe what you believe to be the top five characteristics/capabilities needed in the next College president. (350 word maximum)

1) Understand the vision of the College of the past, what it is today, and use that to chart the future. Be able to make a compelling case to all stakeholders (prospective students, current students, alumni, faculty/staff, community, and government) of the role of the College and how the College can be on the forefront in the 21st century.

2) A leader who appreciates the role of shared governance, constantly seeking out input from all stakeholders, both formally and informally and using that governance to move the College forward. Be not afraid to make decisions without input from stakeholders when such decision does not provide such time to discuss, but providing explanation when permitted.

3) An academic leader (well versed in the integral connection between research and the role of teaching in the classroom) who has some form of leadership experience (ideally in a private organization but possibly a government/college) who understands the evolution of the higher education in our present society to set the tone of Ramapo for the next 10 to 20 years as its leader.

4) A leader who tirelessly advocates on behalf of the College and appreciates the investment that those families who send their students to the College are making. We need a leader who is consistently advocating to our government, private foundations, and our generous donors that to ensure continued excellence we must continue to find innovative opportunities to reduce the cost of attendance of college while ensuring access to all.

5) An individual who all stakeholders are happy to have. During my interactions with President Mercer as a student, student leader, and alumni, I have always found him approachable, intelligent and with a great sense of humor. He is visible in the community and we need someone who shares that exuberance. We need someone who is willing to attend school sporting events then speak to prospective students looking at Ramapo then attend a student club event then meet with a prospective benefactor, all in the same day and show the same excitement and zest to be the leader of such a great institution.
