



# Higher Education Leadership Council

A Policy Organization of New Jersey Faculty, Staff and Students

October 17, 2017

Dear President Dell'Omo:

The New Jersey Higher Education Leadership Council (NJHELHC) of New Jersey, representing over 31,000 NJ faculty and professional staff, urges Rider University to display 100% transparency in its negotiations to sell Westminster Choir College (WCC).

Westminster Choir College is a recognized center of excellence in New Jersey's higher education community. WCC has international recognition for its excellence and impact in music and related areas. Currently, Westminster is part of Rider University whose faculty and professional staff are affiliated with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). The Rider AAUP also serves as a collective bargaining agent representing faculty, librarians, and staff. The Rider AAUP is a part of New Jersey AAUP which is a member of NJHELHC.

Rider's faculty are concerned that the sale of Westminster Choir College will have a negative effect on the integrity of their current collective bargaining agreement with the Rider administration. It may also have a major negative effect on the future of WCC's faculty and staff. The future of WCC's faculty and staff positions needs to be made public prior to any sale of this treasured conservatory. Fairness and honesty must be evident in any transaction to move WCC to another institution.

NJHELHC calls on you, the Rider University President, and the governing Board of Trustees to disclose all specific aspects of any future transfer of Westminster Choir College to another institution or organization. Transparency is needed to insure that Westminster Choir College continues to be a jewel in New Jersey's higher education community.

We are supportive of Rider University and your leadership. We would like to publish this letter in our AFTNJ newsletter. If we do not receive a response from you stating any objection you may have regarding the publication of this letter by Friday, October 20, 2017, 12:00 noon, we will proceed with the newsletter publication.

In advance, thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

**Susanna Tardi, Ph.D.**  
**Chair, NJHEL**

**Daniel O'Connor, Ph.D.**  
**Vice Chair, NJHEL**

NJHEL MEMBERS--AFTNJ; NJAAUP; CNJSCL; RUAAUP-AFT; HPAAE;  
URA; AAUP-BHSNJ; UAFF LOCAL 2222; NJIT PROFESSIONAL STAFF; NJ  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FULL-TIME FACULTY ORGANIZATIONS