Editorial: Mordechai’s here

A time of radical change for Rider is approaching and the student body has to be prepared to adapt. Dr. Mordechai Rozanski has been named as Bart Luedeke’s successor as president of Rider University. What kinds of changes can be expected during this new administration? What can students do to be more prepared for these changes?

Whatever the changes that Rozanski brings to Rider, students have to be constantly aware of them and of his policies. These are the times in which dangerous modifications to Rider life could be made. If students sit idly by and watch as these changes occur, our collective voice will not be heard. Then, if the changes aren’t satisfactory to the student body, we really don’t have a right to complain because we will not have been involved in the decisions that brought about these changes.

This does not mean that whenever a policy change comes about, students should protest and cause all kinds of problems. Some of these changes might be beneficial to us and we should embrace them. However, we must be aware of the exact parameters that Rozanski’s administration defines and decide whether the improvements are, in fact, beneficial to the student body.

If they are not beneficial, we as students have a distinct responsibility to question them. Rider, as a whole, has taken a stance of apathy on many recent important issues that concern the students and this cannot continue during Rozanski’s time at Rider. We have to, as a student body, question everything and make sure that the changes made are in our best interest.

This has nothing to do with Rozanski’s reputation from his previous position of president at University of Guelph in Canada. Radical change is to be expected when any new person takes the helm of an institution as large and as complex as Rider and the students should be just as attentive to the changes made by the new administration, regardless of who the president is.

Also, we should not condemn Rozanski based on his history at another university. There are many interacting organizations and groups of people in a school and often they collide, sometimes viciously. Until something objectionable happens here at Rider, Rozanski should be given the benefit of the doubt by the students and administration.

As long as we remain constantly vigilant and question what is going on in our school, a rapport will develop between the students and the administration. This change of president could become a lucrative opportunity for the previous schism in the communication between students and administration to be bridged. This can do nothing but aid current students and students of the future. Still, we must take advantage of that opportunity for it to do any good for anyone. Apathetically sitting by and watching the parade go by will only lead to more confusion, anger, outrage, and discontent.

Now is the time to change our ways. A better opportunity will be difficult to find, so we must strike while the iron is hot and become a more attentive and vocal student body.

Letters to the Editor: The Rider News welcomes letters on all subjects of interest to the campus community. Letters must be typed and include the name, address, phone number and signature of the author for verification. Send to The Rider News via e-mail (ridernews@rider.edu), campus mail, or hand deliver to Centennial House. All letters must be received by midnight the Monday preceding publication. The Rider News reserves the right to edit all letters for space and clarity.

This weekly editorial expresses the majority opinion of The Rider News editorial board and is written by the Opinion editor.

Quote Of The Week:

“The tyranny of a prince in an oligarchy is not so dangerous to the public welfare as the apathy of a citizen in a democracy.”

—Montesquieu