

28 September 2020

Mr. Arthur F. Golden
Davis, Polk & Wardwell LLP
450 Lexington Ave
New York, NY 10017



Dear Arthur,

It is hard to believe that it has been over three years since we met with you, Wanda Denson-Low, and John Kelly in your NYC office to discuss recommendations for strengthening support from RPI alumni. I am writing today to reiterate the offer we made then: to assist you with improving RPI's financial condition by energizing alumni support through improvements in shared governance policies and practices.

The much-needed increases in RPI's endowment, targeted by *The Rensselaer Plan*, have not materialized, and progress with the capital campaign appears to have stalled. We are confident that you and the Board are fully aware of the financial difficulties in the current fiscal year, which stem from the pandemic and alumni reactions to further restrictions on Greek life. The recent drop in RPI's *US News* and the *Wall Street Journal* rankings add to the challenges of stimulating alumni support.

When we discussed our offer to help, you indicated that it was more fruitful to chase one alumnus with the potential to donate \$1M than chasing one-thousand alumni able to give \$1,000. We have heard from alumni in both categories who are no longer giving, but would be willing to help—if they are heard and heeded. This aversion to financial support will not change until new leadership upholding traditional RPI values is assured and shared governance practices are restored.

We understand that a presidential search process is about to begin, or may already be in its early phase. We believe that knowledge of the search, combined with active alumni participation, will

buoy alumni sentiment. To help create a renaissance in giving, we ask for and urge a few reasonable steps be taken by RPI's Board of Trustees:

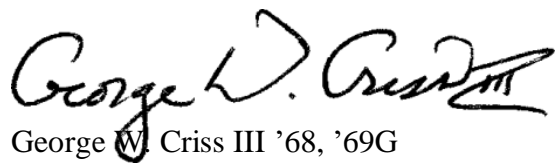
A formal announcement that a Presidential Search has commenced, and that the search (as has been done in the past) will include active participation of two alumni, but with the added provision that the alumni-at-large are involved in their selection.

We recommend that an open election/selection process be conducted by the RAA, at its upcoming Annual Meeting. Furthermore, we insist that any alumnus/alumna be permitted to nominate candidates and that they be afforded equal treatment with those the RAA Leadership might wish to put forward.

We believe deeply that the road to greater alumni financial support and a stronger RPI is through expanded policies and practices of shared governance, especially those espoused by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

As always, we would be happy to meet with you virtually, or in person, to discuss these important matters.

Sincerely, for Renew Rensselaer,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George W. Criss III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "G" and "C".

George W. Criss III '68, '69G

CC: RPI Trustees & RAA