

CAMDEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
September 10, 2020

A meeting of the Camden Board of Directors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. via Webex. Ms. Susan McCue presided as Chair *pro tempore* until Mr. Frank Hundley's election as Chair.

Present and constituting a quorum were Dietrich, Hundley, Lewis-Hall, McCue, and Stewart.

Attending for the university administration were Marsh, Sepanic, and Roesener.

Also present was Rabinowitz, faculty representative to the Board of Directors.

ANNOUNCEMENT PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 231, PUBLIC LAW 1975
(OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT)

Mr. Michael Sepanic, Secretary of the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors, announced that pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231 and Public Law 2020, Chapter 11 (Open Public Meetings Act), public notice of this meeting was filed on August 27, 2020 with the Office of the Secretary of State of New Jersey and three newspapers, the *Cherry Hill Courier-Post*, the *New Brunswick Home News Tribune*, and the *Newark Star-Ledger*. Public notice of the meeting was posted in the following University libraries: the Alexander Library, New Brunswick; the Dana Library, Newark; and the Robeson Library, Camden. In addition, notice of this meeting was posted on the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors website.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Mr. Sepanic asked the board members if they had read the meeting agenda and supporting documents and if anyone had a possible conflict of interest to disclose. No conflicts were reported.

INDUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Ms. McCue introduced Mr. Robert Roesener, deputy general counsel and member of the Bar of the State of New Jersey, to administer the Oath of Allegiance and Office to induct new members. Mr. Roesener called on Ms. Jennifer Lewis-Hall, who was inducted and joined the Rutgers University–Camden Board of Directors as a member representative of the Rutgers University Board of Trustees.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY–CAMDEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OF APPOINTEES TO THE ROWAN UNIVERSITY/RUTGERS–CAMDEN BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Annual elections for the positions of chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer were held. Ms. McCue presented Mr. Hundley for the position of chair for the term September 2020 to September 2021 and called for a motion, which was made and seconded. Ms. McCue asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Ms. McCue called for a vote, and Mr. Hundley was unanimously elected as chair.

Mr. Hundley assumed the chair and presented Ms. McCue for the position of vice chair for the term September 2020 to September 2021 and called for a motion, which was made and seconded. Mr.

Hundley asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Hundley called for a vote, and Ms. McCue was unanimously elected as vice-chair.

Mr. Hundley presented Mr. Sepanic for the position of secretary and Mr. Michael Gower *in absentia* for the position of treasurer for the term September 2020 to September 2021. Mr. Hundley called for a motion, which was made and seconded, and asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Hundley called for a vote, and Mr. Sepanic and Mr. Gower were unanimously elected as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Mr. Hundley turned the chair over to Ms. McCue for the election of appointees to the Rowan University/Rutgers–Camden Board of Governors. Ms. McCue presented Mr. Hundley and Mr. Sandy Stewart for the positions which are coterminous with their terms on the Board of Governors (2024 and 2021, respectively). Ms. McCue asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Ms. McCue called for a vote, and Mr. Hundley and Mr. Stewart were unanimously elected as appointees to the Rowan University/Rutgers–Camden Board of Governors. Mr. Hundley resumed the chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 15, 2020 MEETING

Mr. Hundley called attention to the minutes of the June 15, 2020 meeting that were distributed to the Board and asked if there were any additions or corrections. Receiving no objections, Mr. Hundley called for a motion which was seconded and asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, the minutes were approved unanimously.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICIES

Mr. Hundley called on Mr. Sepanic who reminded Board members and representatives about the need to review, sign, and return to the Office of the Secretary the policy statement on confidentiality of proceedings of the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors’ meetings.

CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

Interim Chancellor Margaret Marsh provided the Board with an update on important happenings since the last Board meeting on June 15, 2020.

Rutgers University had a challenging summer with the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and decided to hold all classes for the fall semester online except for clinicals, science labs, and studio arts classes. Faculty have worked hard to adapt their courses to an online format and staff has made intense effort to ensure that students receive the same personalized attention, whether studying remotely or in-person. Following public safety guidelines, some staff members have returned to campus, Robeson Library and other facilities are available to students, and some students reside in the dormitories.

Rutgers University–Camden faculty have continued their efforts to address the pandemic. Some work on the frontlines of healthcare in communities and hospitals. Others are conducting research on identifying and treating COVID-19 and other illnesses. Still others provide state and national leaders with critically needed expert perspective on policy matters arising in this crisis. Additional faculty members have continued their research, making meaningful contributions to the boundaries of knowledge in their disciplines. Chancellor Marsh provided some highlights: Dr. Maureen Morrin, Henry Rutgers Professor of Marketing, was named coeditor of the prestigious *Journal of Marketing Research*; Dr. Patricia Suplee, associate professor of nursing, was named as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, the highest honor for nursing scholars nationally; Prof. Ellen Goodman, professor of law, was recognized for calling attention to the proliferation of misinformation on social media in a thought-provoking article published

on *Slate*; and, Dr. Hao Zhu, professor of chemistry, earned a highly competitive R01 grant totaling \$2.78 million from the National Institutes of Health for the rapid assessment of drugs on hepatotoxicity. Throughout the pandemic, Rutgers University–Camden has continued its efforts to recruit world-class faculty, welcoming 18 new tenure-track and full-time teaching-track members this fall.

Commitment continues to strengthen and intensify work on matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Rutgers University’s new president, Dr. Jonathan Holloway, has talked about ways Rutgers can help the nation do its part to address the long overdue global racial reckoning. Rutgers University–Camden is also committed to doing its part. With a student body that reflects the diversity of the state and nation, Rutgers University–Camden has made progress. However, more work is needed to recruit faculty and staff that reflect the same diversity. Effort is also being made to create and maintain spaces to have conversations vital to removing all barriers. One initiative to be implemented this semester is a regular series of talks connecting thought leaders on issues of anti-racism, racial equality, and equity.

In an effort to stimulate conversation and maintain connection during the pandemic, in-person events have been adapted to virtual formats. President Holloway will interact with the campus through on-line town halls. As part of the annual Rutgers Reads initiative, acclaimed journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones will discuss the 1619 Project during a free virtual public event on September 24. In addition, students in the Civic Scholars Program will advance civic engagement, a defining element of what we do at Rutgers University–Camden, during this important year of the decennial census and presidential election. Civic Scholars will conduct a virtual push to increase census participation in Camden, and they will also be involved in Project 555, an initiative launched to help new voters in high schools across New Jersey understand their rights and responsibilities as voters.

In addition to the challenges already discussed, the economic fall-out from the pandemic has also resulted in serious budget repercussions by expenses related to the pandemic and steep funding cuts to Rutgers University, including a major cut in the proposed state appropriation. It is hoped this appropriation will be restored. Despite the challenges, Chancellor Marsh said she is “determined and optimistic that Rutgers University–Camden can emerge stronger from the pandemic” and will “continue its efforts to transform South Jersey and contribute greatly to the legacy of Rutgers University.”

Chancellor Marsh deferred questions to the end of the meeting.

UPDATE ON ACADEMIC AND INSTITUTIONAL OPERATIONS

To provide an update on academic and institutional operations, Chair Hundley introduced Dr. Michael Palis, provost, Mr. Larry Gaines, senior vice chancellor for administration and finance, Ms. Mary Beth Daisey, vice chancellor for student affairs, and Dr. Jason Rivera, vice chancellor for student academic success.

With respect to academics, Provost Palis discussed course scheduling and research. As noted, with the exception of clinicals, STEM labs, and studio arts classes, all courses for the fall semester are online. Challenging for faculty and students alike, the Office of Information Technology and the Office of Instructional Design and Technology have been instrumental in making the transition to remote instruction as seamless as possible. Courses offered in-person are conducted observing public health standards following CDC and NJ State Department of Health guidelines. Planning has begun for the spring semester in compliance with Stage 2 of the *Restart Standards for all New Jersey Institutions of Higher Education* developed by the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education.

After restricting research activities in March, Rutgers University has been slowly returning to research over the summer and fall. In compliance with Phase 3 of the protocol developed by Rutgers’ Office of Research and Economic Development, safety is the focus for all faculty, post-doctoral fellows, graduate students, and undergraduate students participating in research at Rutgers University. In addition to the \$2.78 million R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health awarded to Dr. Zhu, Dr. Jinglin Fu,

associate professor of chemistry, received a highly prestigious \$1 million Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (ECASE) from the Army Research Office. ECASE awards are the highest honor bestowed by the Army Research Office to outstanding scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers. Research funding in 2020 has continued the upward trajectory experienced by Rutgers University–Camden for years. Research funding in FY20 totaled \$20 million, an increase of 23 percent over FY19.

Senior Vice Chancellor Gaines provided an overview of building access at Rutgers University–Camden and the budget. Major buildings are accessible to faculty, staff, and students by swipe access. Robeson Library, the Campus Center, and the Athletics and Recreation Center are accessible on different schedules to accommodate students. Sanitation stations and signage to promote social distancing have been installed. Only visitors with official business are permitted on campus. Staff who are not required on campus to deliver services are encouraged to telecommunicate to enable Facilities personnel to concentrate on cleaning high-touch areas, rest rooms, and meeting rooms.

As Chancellor Marsh indicated, the FY21 budget will be a challenge. Preliminary enrollment figures show a decline in enrollment of two percent. Revenue shortfalls have also resulted from decreased housing occupancy and use of dining services, as well as cuts to state appropriations. Some state appropriations have been restored, and it is hoped that more will be restored in the future. Efforts to control spending include university-wide freezes on discretionary spending and hiring. The university will present an FY21 budget (version 2.0) to the Rutgers Board of Governors on September 30.

Vice Chancellor Daisey discussed aspects of the student experience at Rutgers University–Camden. Along with Vice Chancellor Rivera, Vice Chancellor Daisey co-chairs a student experience committee that seeks to create and expand the virtual experience for students during the fall and into the spring semester. Subcommittees representing all academic and student facing units created actions plans to build community with students, hold virtual events and programs, foster Rutgers spirit, and provide meeting and hang-out spaces. Although far fewer students reside on campus during the pandemic, the committee also seeks to create a sense of community for them while maintaining safety guidelines. In addition, the Student Wellness Center provides in-person and virtual services, including medical assistance, psychological counseling, and access to food through the food pantry. The Career Center has provided an array of virtual services, including job fairs, networking events, and workshops and classes on such topics as creating and implementing career plans and video interviewing skills. The Dean of Students Office continues to support students and outreach to faculty and staff through initiatives such as a laptop loaner program and referrals to resources and services, including emergency funding, when necessary. The Student Involvement Office has been actively working to create student programs, events, and opportunities for engagement. A strong student focus is critical to the student experience at Rutgers University–Camden, and the pandemic is no exception to this goal.

Vice Chancellor Rivera discussed academic and student success aspects of the student experience during the pandemic. The Division of Student Academic Success has taken a multi-pronged approach to providing supports to make sure students have what they need to thrive academically at Rutgers University–Camden. The division leveraged social media prior to and during the semester to share academic strategies, information on campus events, and highlights. The division worked with faculty prior to the semester, providing them with information to include on their syllabi on resources for students, tips for remote instruction, guidance to help students create study groups in a remote environment, and instruction on leveraging Raptor Connect, the student success management system, to intercede as early as possible for students who are struggling. The division recorded academic workshops for students, in general, and for cohort-based programs, such as EOF, TRiO, and Mountainview. Dr. Rivera explained that the cohort model works to deepen community, enhance academic skill building, and provide targeted resources in the virtual environment. In addition to established cohorts for EOF, TriO, and Mountainview, the inaugural cohort of Camden Fellows launched this semester to support students

previously or currently in foster care. Webinars for transfer students were conducted on academic skills, success strategies, and financial aid. Partnering with Enrollment Management, newsletters were created for parents of first-year students to help them better understand Rutgers' processes, the virtual environment, and preparing students for academic rigor. The division also continues to support robust experiential learning opportunities and initiated a research study on outcomes related to the impact of experiential learning on students who participated in courses with an experiential learning component. Finally, the Division of Student Academic Success is working with partners across the campus (e.g. librarians, advisors, and colleagues in the Division of Student Affairs) to ensure that students' needs are addressed as they arise.

A period of discussion followed the presentations.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Hundley directed the Board's attention to old business. There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hundley directed the Board's attention to new business. There was no new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hundley asked if members of the public wished to comment. No public comment was offered.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hundley asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting at 1:24 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by,

Michele L. Robinson
Rutgers University–Camden Chancellor's Office