

**CAMDEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**  
**May 21, 2021**

A meeting of the Camden Board of Directors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey was held virtually on May 21, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Mr. Frank Hundley presided as Chair.

Present and constituting a quorum were Dietrich, Hundley, Lewis, Stewart, and Tambussi.

No Board members were absent.

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

Also present were Rabinowitz, faculty representative to the Board of Directors, Ciallella, graduate student representative to the Board of Directors, and Shanas, undergraduate 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 May 18, 2021 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.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll was taken during the meeting.

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR**

Due to Chancellor Marsh's return to the faculty on July 1, Mr. Hundley thanked her for her exemplary service to Rutgers University–Camden as interim chancellor. He expressed appreciation for the appointment of Dr. Antonio Tillis as incoming chancellor. Mr. Hundley thanked Ms. Heather Ciallella, graduate student representative, and Mr. Nitán Shanas, undergraduate representative, for their service to the board and as members of the chancellor's search committee. He also congratulated Mr. Shanas for receiving funding from the Congressional Hunger Center to do direct service and advocacy focusing on anti-poverty and anti-hunger initiatives.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 24, 2021 AND APRIL 27, 2021 MEETINGS**

Mr. Hundley called attention to the minutes of the January 24, 2021 and April 27, 2021 meetings 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.

### **CHANCELLOR'S UPDATE**

Chancellor Marsh provided the Board with an update on important happenings since the last regular Board meeting on January 24, 2021, including campus operations during the pandemic, commencement, and appointment of the new chancellor.

Acknowledging the extraordinary challenge presented by the pandemic, Chancellor Marsh expressed gratitude to the faculty and staff who continued to help students achieve success, generate impressive research, and serve the community. More than anything, Chancellor Marsh said she derives inspiration from the students at Rutgers University–Camden who continued to hold on to their dreams, ambitions, and empathy as they and their families experienced illness and financial hardship during this extremely difficult year.

With the increasing availability of vaccines against COVID-19, Chancellor Marsh expressed optimism for the future. The School of Nursing–Camden administered over 70,000 vaccinations at public sites in Camden and Blackwood. Additionally, Rutgers established a vaccination site on the Rutgers–Camden campus to serve members of the public as well Rutgers University students, faculty, and staff. Increased rates of vaccination are expected to allow for repopulating the campus over the summer in accordance with CDC and state guidelines and for returning to in-person instruction in the fall for courses normally taught in that format.

Due to public health considerations, in-person commencement ceremonies have been delayed until November. Rutgers–Camden planned for virtual ceremonies in May, and safe activities such as in-person photo opportunities. It is hoped that many students and their families will attend the in-person commencements this fall.

Chancellor Marsh said she is excited for Rutgers University–Camden to have Dr. Antonio Tillis joining as chancellor on July 1. Citing his impressive credentials, Chancellor Marsh remarked enthusiastically that Dr. Tillis “is a proven leader, thoughtful, creative, eager to engage with the city, students, the region, and the world, and is exactly what Rutgers–Camden needs.”

Chancellor Marsh concluded her update by thanking the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors for their service, guidance, and support during her tenure as interim chancellor.

### **FOCUS ON THE HONORS COLLEGE**

Mr. Hundley called on Dr. Lee Ann Westman, associate teaching professor and director of the Honors College at Rutgers University–Camden, to make a presentation on the Honors College.

Dr. Westman divided her presentation between showcasing recent highlights of the Honors College and the experiences of two Honors College students.

Dr. Westman spoke proudly of three initiatives, two of which are student-led. First, *The Undergraduate Review*, a student-edited and faculty-advised undergraduate journal, issued a call for papers at the beginning of the pandemic and published its inaugural issue in spring 2020. Two additional issues (fall 2020 and spring 2021) have also been published. Second, Honors College students created a virtual peer mentoring program which was implemented during the pandemic. Although students did not meet in-person, they corresponded via text, email, and various apps. The program has been submitted for presentation at a national honors college conference. Third, Dr. Westman highlighted a major change in curriculum. Beginning in fall 2022, all Honors College freshman will attend the freshman forum together. The course will broaden students’ knowledge and perspective by featuring faculty members from across the campus who will delve into how their individual disciplines approach a particular topic.

Dr. Westman welcomed two Honors College students, Ms. Melani Cruz Stokes, a criminal justice major and legal studies minor, and Mr. Christopher Prieto Diaz, a triple major in political science, global studies, and Spanish. Both students are graduating seniors and Phi Beta Kappa inductees. Both students said the mentoring and encouragement they received from the Honors College staff enabled them to

access numerous opportunities and scholarships and helped them succeed and broaden their perspectives. Ms. Cruz Stokes, who plans to advocate for justice reform and immigrant rights, will attend law school in fall 2022. She said the Honors College enabled her to explore her passions, think more globally, and recognize the power of advocacy more fully. Mr. Prieto Diaz credited the Honors College's community engagement opportunities with enhancing his learning experience and helping him feel better connected with the community and the campus. He also credits the Honors College staff, particularly Ms. Laura Collins, assistant dean and founding director for the Office of Scholar Development and Fellowship Advising, with helping him succeed with his graduate school applications. Admitted to eight prestigious master's programs, three with full funding, Mr. Prieto Diaz has accepted a fellowship in international development at the University of Pittsburgh and plans to join the Foreign Service following graduation.

### **UPDATE ON THE ROWAN UNIVERSITY/RUTGERS–CAMDEN BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Mr. Hundley called on Ms. Dana Redd, CEO of the Rowan University/Rutgers–Camden Board of Governors, to provide an update on the Joint Board.

The Joint Board has selected a team of planners and architects from Ewing Cole, Pennoni and McKernan to help update the health sciences campus plan with an eye toward the next phase on Block 1400. On May 20, the Joint Board, along with Ewing Cole, Pennoni and McKernan, hosted a community outreach meeting for the Eds, Meds, and Research corridor. Facilitators focused on ascertaining attendees' highest priorities in public spaces and neighborhood retail. Public input is also being gathered through an online and mobile survey for the Camden Eds, Meds, and Research Corridor. The survey, available in English and Spanish, has been widely distributed and will remain open through mid-June. In addition, a peer-to-peer learning exchange to visit marketplace examples in the region is being planned, where redevelopment possibilities will be visioned with residents and other key stakeholders.

Thanks to collaboration among Rutgers University–Camden, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, and the Joint Board, the South Jersey Institute for Population Health is up and running. Ms. Redd thanked Dr. Michael Palis, provost of Rutgers University–Camden, and Dr. Annette Reboli, dean of Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, for their leadership. Under the direction of Dr. Sarah Allred, associate professor in psychology at Rutgers University–Camden and director of the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs, and Dr. Nicole Vaughn, assistant professor in community health at Rowan University, the Institute launched a website and announced its inaugural funding initiative for 2021 that involves collaborative partnerships between Rutgers University and Rowan University and includes community-based organizations in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Cumberland, Salem, Atlantic, and Cape May counties. Great interest has been expressed in the call for proposals for grants of up to \$20K.

Ms. Redd concluded her presentation by thanking Chancellor Marsh for her support, ideas, enthusiasm, and advocacy for Rutgers University and the city of Camden. She also thanked Mr. Sandy Stewart and Mr. Hundley for their service to the Joint Board as representatives of the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

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**CLOSING COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

Mr. Hundley thanked Ms. Jennifer Lewis and Mr. Sandy Stewart, outgoing members, and Mr. Nitán Shanas, outgoing student representative, for their service to the board.

**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 12:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by,

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