

The Board of Trustees was the original governing body of the University. In 1956, the Board of Trustees entered into an agreement with the State of New Jersey, commonly referred to as the Act of 1956, making Rutgers “The State University of New Jersey.” This law established the Board of Governors as the primary governing body of the University but also provided for the continuation of the Board of Trustees in an overall advisory capacity to the Board of Governors. The Board of Trustees maintained its ownership of all property, funds, and trusts acquired by the University prior to 1956 thereby preserving the University’s autonomy and high degree of self-governance.

WHAT WE DO

Board of Trustees Members:

- have a fiduciary responsibility to act in the University’s best interest.
- are advisors to the Board of Governors and the University. This is done through active participation on Board of Governors committees and nominations to the Board of Governors.
- participate in regularly scheduled board meetings and committee meetings.
- engage in committee discussions and ensure that sound decisions are made on education policies and programs, student life issues, financial investments, and certain administrative policies.
- serve as an invaluable resource of various skills and experiences upon which the President can draw to provide advice and support for the advancement of University initiatives.
- honor the privacy and confidentiality surrounding the discussions that take place in committee and closed meetings as regulated by the Open Public Meetings Act.
- represent Rutgers through attendance at Rutgers events – groundbreakings and dedications, Presidential talks, University Commencement and academic Convocations, athletic competitions, student performances, etc.
- give back through participation in fundraising activities to support University priorities.
- engage in legislative outreach by building relationships with local and statewide legislators to educate them about the University, its mission, goals, and needs.
- act as ambassadors for Rutgers and share the good work the University undertakes each day in educating tomorrow’s leaders, performing public service, and conducting cutting-edge research.

WHO WE ARE

Committed to Diversity

The Board of Trustees strives to maintain the Board’s diversity to reflect the population of the State of New Jersey. As a result, the Board of Trustees is a unique blend of individuals representing a range of different backgrounds.

The Board of Trustees focuses on diversity in geographic region, education level, vocation, professional experience, and life experience. Trustees who are not active students hold positions in varying fields, such as health/pharmacy, business, finance, education, law, and government/public affairs. Board of Trustee members do not have to be alumni to be on the Board.

BOARD STRUCTURE

The Board of Trustees consists of 41 voting members, which include:

- 20 Charter Trustees, including three Student Charter Trustees
- 16 Alumni Trustees
- 5 Public Trustees appointed by the Governor of the State of New Jersey

The Board also may elect former members of the Board as non-voting Trustees Emeriti and they hold this designation for life.