

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
July 1, 2025

A special virtual meeting of the Board of Governors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, was held on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. Ms. Amy Towers, Chair of the Board, presided.

Present and constituting a quorum were Angelson, Copeland, Crosta, Dougherty, Helmy, Lal, Manigan, Mansue, Piazza, Schwartz, Taffet, Towers, and Zubair.

Present was Johnson, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Also attending was Pierce, senate representative to the Board of Governors.

Attending for the University administration were Ballentine, Castner, Calcado, Fernandez, Gower, Melillo, Norin, Pastva, Pfeiffer, Robinson, Roesener, and Tate.

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

Ms. Towers called on Ms. Kimberlee Pastva, Secretary of the University, who announced that pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231 (Open Public Meetings Act) public notice of the meeting was filed on June 29, 2025 with the Office of the Secretary of the 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. Pursuant to Public Law 2020, Chapter 11, public notice of the meeting was posted on the Rutgers Website, under Governing Boards.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Secretary Pastva asked the members of the Board if they had read the meeting agenda and supporting documents and if anyone had a possible conflict of interest to disclose. Board members indicated that no conflicts existed.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY CHAIR

Ms. Towers welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared some opening remarks, noting that this is a momentous day as it marks the beginning of Dr. William F. Tate IV's tenure as the 22nd President of Rutgers. Ms. Towers then welcomed President Tate to his first meeting of the Board of Governors.

INDUCTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Ms. Towers asked Mr. Hollis Copeland and Ms. Amy Mansue to unmute their microphones. She then called on Mr. Robert Roesener, Associate Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, and member of the Bar of the State of New Jersey, who administered the Oath of Allegiance and Office. Ms. Towers congratulated Mr. Copeland and Ms. Mansue.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Proposed Resolution on the Appointment of the Executive Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel. Ms. Towers shared some background on the search for a new Executive Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel and the work of the search committee, which included individuals from throughout the

University. She also discussed the efforts of the search firm WittKeifer, which presented twelve candidates for interviews. Ms. Towers reported that the search committee selected three finalists for President Tate's final selection. She then turned the floor over to President Tate who discussed his background working with general counsels throughout his career, noting that the individual he will present brings a distinguished intellectual maturity to the application of the law and the complexities that higher education is facing. He then presented Mr. William J. Castner as Executive Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel and highlighted Mr. Castner's accomplishments as a highly respected attorney whose career spans public service, regulatory strategy, and complex institutional counsel.

Ms. Towers then asked Dr. Dougherty to present the following proposed resolution:

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2024, John Farmer, Esq. was appointed to serve as Interim Senior Vice President and General Counsel until such time as a permanent replacement could be found; and

WHEREAS, the University engaged the search firm WittKeifer and a Search Committee consisting of members representing the Rutgers Community was appointed by President Jonathan Holloway; and

WHEREAS, the Search Committee submitted its recommendations to President William F. Tate IV, and after careful review and consideration, President Tate selected Mr. William J. Castner to be appointed Executive Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Castner holds a law degree and a public policy master's degree from Rutgers, and comes to this position with extensive experience in both public and private practice; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Castner's leadership positions in New Jersey have included chief counsel to former Governor Jon Corzine, general counsel to the New Jersey General Assembly, chief counsel to the New Jersey Redistricting Commission, and senior advisor to Governor Phil Murphy on firearms and the reduction of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Castner's work in private practice includes several years at the firm Gibbons PC, invaluable experience as senior vice president of corporate and regulatory affairs at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, and most recently his leadership as chair of regulatory affairs and compliance at Connell Foley, LLP; and

WHEREAS, after review and discussion of the qualifications of Mr. William Castner, the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors concurred with the President's recommendation and agreed to recommend for approval by the Board of Governors the appointment of William J. Castner to the position of Executive Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Governors Executive Committee, that the Board of Governors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, concurs with the proposed recommendation and approves the appointment of Mr. William J. Castner as Executive Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel effective immediately; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Board of Governors, on behalf of the entire University community, offers its sincere gratitude to Mr. John Farmer for serving as Interim Senior Vice President and General Counsel and wishes him the very best in his future endeavors.

The motion was seconded, and there being no discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Proposed Resolution on the Appointment of the Executive Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel.

President Tate and Ms. Towers congratulated Mr. Castner as he was welcomed to the Zoom meeting room. Mr. Castner expressed his appreciation to the Board of Governors and President Tate, and acknowledged the work of his predecessors, Mr. John Hoffman and Mr. John Farmer. Mr. Castner also discussed his experiences as a Rutgers Law student and stated that this marks a special opportunity for him.

OLD BUSINESS

None reported.

NEW BUSINESS

None reported.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony Stoeckert
Writing Associate