

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
August 11, 2025

A special virtual meeting of the Board of Governors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, was held on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. Ms. Amy Towers, Chair of the Board, presided.

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

Absent were Copeland and Schwartz.

Attending was Johnson, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Also attending were Foster and Pierce, senate representatives to the Board of Governors.

Attending for the University administration were Ballentine, Castner, Calcado, Geary, Gower, Melillo, Norin, Pastva, Smith-Jackson, Tate, Tillis, Turner, and Zwick.

Attending as guests were Dr. Keena Arbuthnot and Ms. Kimberly Lewis.

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 August 9, 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; the Robeson Library, Camden; and the Smith Library, Rutgers Health. 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.

RESOLUTION TO CONDUCT CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Towers called on Dr. James Dougherty, Vice Chair of the Board of Governors, who read and moved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board meet in immediate closed session on this date, August 11, 2025, to discuss personnel matters, including administrative appointments with tenure, and matters falling within the attorney-client privilege; in accordance with Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, Section 7, Items b(7) and (8). Any necessary action related to the appointments is expected to be taken in the open session immediately following the closed session.

The motion was seconded, unanimously approved, and the Board of Governors moved into Closed Session.

RESUMPTION OF OPEN SESSION

The Board resumed the public session of the meeting at approximately 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Towers stated that a member of the public signed up to speak and would be allotted two minutes for comments. The speaker expressed his congratulations and best wishes to President Tate and the new members of his cabinet. The speaker also shared his thoughts on the Board's bylaws.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Proposed Resolution on the Appointment of Kenna Arbuthnot as the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. Ms. Towers turned the floor over to President Tate, who presented the appointment of Dr. Keena Arbuthnot as Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. President Tate reviewed Dr. Arbuthnot's qualifications, including her current position as Vice President and Dean of the Pinkie Gordon Lane Graduate School at Louisiana State University ("LSU"), where she also holds a distinguished professorship. President Tate discussed Dr. Arbuthnot's research portfolio and stated that she is one of the nation's finest academic administrators.

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

WHEREAS, President William F. Tate IV has recommended Dr. Keena Arbuthnot to serve as Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and to hold the academic rank of Distinguished Professor with tenure; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arbuthnot serves as the Dean of the Graduate School at Louisiana State University ("LSU"), where she oversees academic policies, graduate student success initiatives, and faculty engagement, and leads strategic efforts to enhance recruitment, retention, and completion rates for graduate students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arbuthnot concurrently serves as Vice President and Chief Data Officer at LSU, where she is responsible for modernizing the university's data infrastructure and providing data-informed decision support, and has served in several other high-level administrative positions including as Special Advisor to the President and Associate Vice President of Research and Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arbuthnot is the Joan Pender McManus Distinguished Professor of Education at LSU and the author of several scholarly publications; holds a doctorate in Educational Psychology with expertise in educational measurement, applied statistics, and program evaluation that focuses on issues of equity and fairness in educational testing; is a principal investigator, evaluator, or contributor on fifteen funded research grants; and has served on several national advisory committees, including the Educational Testing Service Global Higher Education Technical Advisory Committee, the National Assessment of Educational Progress Validity Panel, and the Graduate Record Examination Technical Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with President Tate and after careful review of the extensive experience and impressive qualifications of Dr. Arbuthnot, the Executive Committee

of the Board of Governors concurred with President Tate's recommendation and endorsed the appointment of Dr. Keena Arbuthnot as Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs including the academic rank of Distinguished Professor with tenure to the Board of Governors for approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of President William F. Tate IV and the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors, the Board of Governors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, hereby concurs with the appointment of Dr. Keena Arbuthnot as Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, effective immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board also approves Dr. Arbuthnot's appointment as Distinguished Professor with academic tenure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Governors extends its thanks and appreciation to Dr. Henry Turner for serving as Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs since July 1, 2025.

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 Academic Affairs.

Dr. Arbuthnot was then let into the Zoom meeting room and she expressed her appreciation to the Board and President Tate. She shared her excitement to work with the University's chancellors and faculty and discussed her advocacy in support of students and the pursuit of student success. President Tate welcomed Dr. Arbuthnot to Rutgers and expressed his confidence in her.

Proposed Resolution on the Appointment of Kimberly Lewis as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. Ms. Towers again turned the floor over to President Tate, who presented the appointment of Ms. Kimberly Lewis as the Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer and reviewed her qualifications. President Tate informed the Board that Ms. Lewis has vast experiences in government service and universities, including as Chief Administrative Officer at LSU, and shared additional details of Ms. Lewis' career and her areas of expertise.

Ms. Towers then asked Senator Helmy to present the following proposed resolution:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the University President in the bylaws of the Board of Governors as well as University Policy, President William F. Tate IV has recommended establishing a new university officer for Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, to be designated as the Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, and President Tate has recommended Ms. Kimberly Lewis to serve as the inaugural Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lewis is an accomplished leader in higher education, having served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at Louisiana State University ("LSU"), where she oversaw all financial and administrative strategy, leading transformative budget and administrative reforms and implementing processes that funded faculty merit raises, graduate assistant support, and strategic capital priorities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lewis is a distinguished legal expert and has held several high-level positions for the State of Louisiana, including serving as Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Revenue where she was responsible for collecting over \$10 billion in taxes, and as Special Advisor to the Governor where she provided legal counsel and served as Senior Policy Advisor on revenue, economic development, and insurance policy; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lewis received her J.D. degree from LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center and has served on prominent boards, commissions, and task forces, including as President of the Federation of Tax Administrators Board of Trustees and as a member of the Resilient Louisiana Commission; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with President Tate regarding the responsibilities for this new officer, including the authority to execute binding contracts for the University, and after careful review of the extensive experience and impressive qualifications of Ms. Lewis, the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors concurred with President Tate's recommendation and endorsed the appointment of Ms. Kimberly Lewis as the inaugural Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer to the Board of Governors for approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of President William F. Tate IV and the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors, the Board of Governors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, hereby concurs with the creation of a new university officer to be designated as the Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer and the appointment of Ms. Kimberly Lewis as such officer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that President Tate, in consultation with the Executive Vice President and General Counsel ("EVPGC"), or their designees, update the bylaws of the Board of Governors and all relevant University policies as necessary to reflect the existence and responsibilities of this new officer, and that all such changes, subject to the President's and EVPGC's satisfaction, are hereby approved; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The motion was seconded, and there being no discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Proposed Resolution on the Appointment of the Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer.

Ms. Lewis was then let into the Zoom meeting room and Ms. Towers welcomed her to Rutgers. Ms. Lewis addressed the Board and expressed her appreciation for this opportunity. President Tate welcomed Ms. Lewis to the University and expressed his excitement to work with her at Rutgers.

OLD BUSINESS

None reported.

NEW BUSINESS

None reported.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Stoeckert".

Anthony Stoeckert
Writing Associate