

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
May 29, 2025

A virtual special meeting of the Board of Governors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, was held on Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Amy Towers, Chair of the Board, presided.

Present and constituting a quorum were Copeland, Crosta, DiMartino, Dougherty, Helmy, Lal, Manigan, Piazza, Taffet, Taylor, Towers, and Zubair.

Absent were Angelson and Schwartz.

Also attending was Mansue, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

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

Attending for the University administration were Ballentine, Farmer, Gower, Holloway, Melillo, Moghe, Norin, Pastva, and Robinson.

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 this meeting was filed on May 27, 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 this 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. The response from Board members indicated that no conflicts existed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Proposed Resolution on the Appointment of the Chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark. Ms. Towers welcomed everyone to the meeting and turned the floor over to President Holloway. President Holloway informed the Board that after a yearlong search involving a search committee chaired by Dr. Prabhas Moghe, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Salamishah Tillet, Distinguished Professor at Rutgers University–Newark, he was presenting Dr. Tonya Smith-Jackson as the next Chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark. President Holloway noted that Dr. Smith-Jackson currently serves as Provost at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and reviewed her background in engineering and psychology, adding that her appointment at Rutgers–Newark will be in psychology.

Ms. Towers then called upon Mr. Tilak Lal, Vice Chair of the Board of Governors, who read and moved the following proposed Resolution on the Appointment of the Chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark:

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2024, Dr. Jeffrey Robinson was appointed to serve as the Interim Chancellor until such time as a permanent replacement could be found; and

WHEREAS, a Search Committee for the Chancellor of Rutgers–Newark consisting of members representing the Rutgers community was appointed by President Jonathan

Holloway and was co-chaired by Dr. Prabhas Moghe, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Distinguished Professor in the School of Engineering at Rutgers University–New Brunswick, and Dr. Salamishah Tillet, Henry Rutgers Professor of African American Studies and Creative Writing and Executive Director of Express Newark; and

WHEREAS, the Search Committee submitted its recommendations to President Holloway, and after careful review and consideration, the President, in collaboration with President-Designate William F. Tate IV, selected Dr. Tonya Smith-Jackson to be appointed as Chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark; and

WHEREAS, Tonya Smith-Jackson holds a doctorate in Psychology/Ergonomics and an interdisciplinary Master of Science degree in Psychology and Industrial Engineering and is a supremely talented and effective higher education leader, having served in numerous administrative and academic leadership positions at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (“NC A&T”) and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (“Virginia Tech”), currently serving as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at NC A&T; and

WHEREAS, the members of the search committee, President Holloway, and President-Designate William F. Tate IV, concluded that Tonya Smith-Jackson is uniquely prepared to provide the dynamic leadership that will enable Rutgers University–Newark to excel in teaching and research while serving an ever more vital role in the City of Newark; and

WHEREAS, after review and discussion of the qualifications of Dr. Smith-Jackson, 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 Tonya Smith-Jackson to the position of Chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Board of Governors Executive Committee, the Board of Governors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, concurs with the proposed recommendation and approves the appointment of Dr. Tonya Smith-Jackson as Chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dr. Smith-Jackson’s appointment as Chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark be effective on August 1, 2025, and that Dr. Smith-Jackson shall thereafter serve as Chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark for a five-year term, renewable at the pleasure of the President; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Board of Governors, on behalf of the entire University community, offers its sincere gratitude to Dr. Jeffrey Robinson for serving as Interim Chancellor for Rutgers University–Newark through the end of July 2025.

The motion was seconded, and there being no discussion, the Board of Governors unanimously approved the Proposed Resolution on the Appointment of the Chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark.

Ms. Towers turned the floor over to President Holloway, and Dr. Smith-Jackson joined the meeting. President Holloway then introduced Dr. Smith-Jackson as Chancellor Designate of Rutgers University–Newark. President Holloway shared some further details of the search process, adding that Dr. Smith-Jackson is joining the Rutgers community with a wave of enthusiasm. Dr. Smith-Jackson thanked the Board of Governors for their vote of confidence in her and for their support. She thanked the search committee, as well as President Holloway and Dr. Jeffrey Robinson, Interim Chancellor of Rutgers–Newark. Dr. Smith-Jackson expressed best wishes to

President Holloway as outgoing President and noted she had a great discussion with President-Designate, Dr. William F. Tate. Dr. Smith-Jackson added that she is looking forward to working with the Board of Governors and that serving as Chancellor of Rutgers–Newark is the perfect opportunity during these times, as she was a first-generation, low-income student. President Holloway further expressed his confidence in Chancellor Designate Smith-Jackson and expressed his appreciation to Chancellor Robinson, who he noted will return to the position of Provost. Ms. Towers welcomed Chancellor-Designate Smith-Jackson to Rutgers and expressed her appreciation to Chancellor Robinson.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony Stoeckert
Writing Associate