

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**  
**February 11, 2026**

A meeting of the Board of Governors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. in the Camden Campus Center in Camden, New Jersey. Ms. Amy Towers, Chair of the Board, presided.

Present and constituting a quorum were Crosta, Dougherty, Fixmer (via Zoom), Helmy, Lal (via Zoom), Manigan, Mansue, Piazza, Taffet, Towers, and Vazquez.

Absent were Angelson, Copeland, Schwartz,

Present were Johnson, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Chropuvka, Chair of the Joint Committee on Investments.

Also attending were Foster (via Zoom) and Pierce, senate representatives to the Board of Governors.

Attending for the University administration were Arbuthnot, Castner, Conway, Gower, Gigliotti, Hopely, Johnson, Lewis, Melillo, Pastva, Robinson, Smith-Jackson (via Zoom), Tate, Tillis, and Zinn.

Attending as guests were Dr. Gary Aston-Jones, Director of the Rutgers Brain Health Institute and Dr. Patrick Murray, Principal at StimSight Research.

**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 23, 2025 and revised on January 15, 2026 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 both the Robert Wood Johnson Library of Health Sciences 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. The response from 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, February 11, 2026, to discuss personnel matters, including an academic appointment with tenure and matters falling within the attorney-client privilege in Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, Section 7, Items b(7) and (8). Any necessary action related to the tenure appointment 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 1:30 p.m.

### **MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE CHAIR**

Ms. Towers shared some opening remarks, during which she discussed the history of the Rutgers–Camden campus and its stature as a point of pride for the University.

Resolution Lauding Antonio M. Calcado for his distinguished service. Ms. Towers presented the Resolution Recognizing Antonio M. Calcado, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer:

**WHEREAS**, Antonio M. Calcado has served Rutgers for more than thirty years, and his contributions have helped transform the University as it has taken its place as one of the nation’s finest public research institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, in his role as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Calcado oversaw numerous essential divisions and was critical in the development of Rutgers 2030—the University’s first comprehensive physical master plan—and represented the University as it forged groundbreaking academic relationships with universities from around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, as the steward of the University’s institutional planning, strategic endeavors, and capital construction programs, Mr. Calcado negotiated and structured productive partnerships with development experts and government authorities at all levels, and his broad and thoughtful leadership enhanced Rutgers’ work in various areas, including emergency management, transportation, housing, construction, public safety, and emergency services; and

**WHEREAS**, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Calcado acted swiftly to establish a task force that met daily, conducted regular briefings with Chancellors, and closely monitored the virus’ global impact with foresight that positioned Rutgers’ leadership to make informed and effective decisions that enabled the University to continue its essential mission in support of students while also providing critical care to the people of New Jersey at a crucial moment in history; and

**WHEREAS**, among his many noteworthy achievements are his crisis management during and in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy to the benefit of Rutgers and New Jersey; his service as a steering team leader during the successful integration of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey with Rutgers; his leadership as Rutgers hosted a sitting President of the United States for Commencement; and his deep commitment to mentoring, professional development within Institutional Planning and Operations, and leadership development through the establishment of the university-wide OneRed High-Impact Leadership Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Calcado’s contributions have guided Rutgers to new heights as a leader in higher education, and his notable legacy of service to students, faculty, staff and the broader Rutgers Community will long be remembered and appreciated.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, offers its gratitude to Antonio M. Calcado for his leadership and steadfast commitment to Rutgers students, faculty, and staff, and to the citizens of New Jersey; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors extends its sincere best wishes to Antonio M. Calcado for his continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

*The motion was seconded, and there being no discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution Lauding Antonio M. Calcado for his Distinguished Service.*

### **MATTERS PRESENTED BY PRESIDENT**

Ms. Towers turned the floor over to President Tate for a report. President Tate began by discussing Rutgers’ place in the Big Ten and the role the Big Ten plays in increasing the University’s national profile, research status, academic enterprise, and financial sustainability. He also discussed an op-ed he wrote about Rutgers and the Big Ten. President Tate continued by highlighting honors earned by Rutgers graduates and reporting on his participation in New Jersey Business & Industry Association panel; the importance of humanities majors; and his focus on keeping Rutgers graduates in New Jersey.

Next, President Tate discussed a survey conducted by StimSight Research on New Jersey residents’ opinions on Rutgers. He then turned the floor over to Dr. Patrick Murray, Principal at StimSight Research, who shared a summary of the report. Dr. Murray stated that the survey of more than 1,000 New Jersey residents indicated that 77% of respondents have a positive view of Rutgers, with 10% having a negative view, and 10% having no opinion. He also broke down favorability numbers by region and reviewed responses for departments and programs, and Rutgers graduates, all of which indicated strong favorable responses. Dr. Murray also reported on respondents’ positive views on Rutgers’ role in the Big Ten Conference, as well as their opinions on the University’s mission priorities. He added that residents see Rutgers as part of the fabric of New Jersey and as an asset to the state. Dr. Murray shared additional details of the survey and answered questions from the Board.

### **REPORT FROM THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY–CAMDEN CHANCELLOR**

Ms. Towers asked Dr. Antonio Tillis, Chancellor of Rutgers University–Camden, to share a report. Chancellor Tillis began by stating that Rutgers–Camden is positioned to meet the evolving needs of higher education and shared a video on the campus’ centennial celebration. Next, Chancellor Tillis shared a detailed review of enrollment, reporting that overall Spring 2026 enrollment rose by 2.6%, despite a small drop in new students. Chancellor Tillis turned the floor over to Dr. Jim Jung, Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Enrollment Management at Rutgers–Camden, who detailed the campus’ efforts to improve student retention.

Next, Chancellor Tillis shared an update on the campus’ budget and grant funding, which he noted totaled \$20.4 million to date for FY26, and equals the prior year’s final total. He also discussed institutional advancement and shared slides on Rutgers–Camden’s performance in the 2026 *U.S. News & World Report* online program rankings. Chancellor Tillis noted academic and athletic achievements by Rutgers–Camden students, as well as achievements by faculty and alumni. He also provided updates on capital projects and upcoming events and concluded his report.

## **RUTGERS BRAIN HEALTH INSTITUTE PRESENTATION**

Ms. Towers called on Dr. Gary Aston-Jones, Director of the Rutgers Brain Health Institute, to share a report. Dr. Aston-Jones began by discussing the importance of brain health to all health outcomes. He then provided the Board with some background on the Brain Health Institute, which he noted is virtual and represents all Rutgers schools and campuses and is one of the world's largest brain research organizations. He continued by sharing slides on the organizational chart and the Institute's faculty recruits. Dr. Aston-Jones highlighted funding, shared slides on recruitment, and reviewed the Institute's various centers and the innovative therapies that are being used at these centers. Next, Dr. Aston-Jones highlighted the Institute's partnership with Princeton University, including the Rutgers-Princeton Center for Computational Cognitive Neuro-Psychiatry and a Translational Science Awards ("CTSA") grant and concluded his report.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Towers stated that members of the public signed up to speak and would be allotted two minutes for comments. Ms. Towers then called on a total of seven speakers, who voiced their concerns on student safety; establishing Rutgers as a sanctuary campus; protecting international students from ICE; flexible work agreements; the Bachelor of Science in Management and Work Degree Program at the School of Management and Labor Relations and the needs of modern workers; and new timeclocks that utilize facial recognition on the Busch Campus.

## **COMMITTEE BRIEFINGS**

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs. Ms. Towers turned the floor over to Dr. Dougherty, Chair of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs, who stated that during the Committee's meeting on January 13, 2026, Dr. Jose Aviles, Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success, presented on enrollment management. Dr. Dougherty also reported that the Committee received updates on academic credentials and reviewed and endorsed a Bachelor of Science in Management and Work Degree Program at the School of Management and Labor Relations; a Master of Science in FinTech Analytics Degree Program at the School of Graduate Studies; faculty tenure; and an endowed chair appointment.

Committee on Finance and Facilities. Ms. Towers called on Senator George Helmy, Chair of the Committee on Finance and Facilities, who reported on the Committee's meeting on January 13, 2026, during which members received information on transformative initiatives at the University. Senator Helmy noted that the Committee also reviewed a financial update that reported improved FY26 operating performance and cash flow; progress on budget planning and financial sustainability initiatives; and key considerations for the FY27 budget development and tuition proposals amid a changing state and federal landscape.

Committee on Audit, Risk, and Compliance. Ms. Towers asked Ms. Amy Mansue, Chair of the Committee on Audit, Risk, and Compliance, to share a briefing. Ms. Mansue reported that the Committee met on January 22, 2026 and received updates from University leadership, including the annual review of professional services contracts, a KPMG NCAA agreed-upon procedures report with no concerns, and a comprehensive compliance briefing introducing a draft Rutgers Compliance Matrix and ongoing policy modernization efforts. Ms. Mansue added that the Committee also heard reports addressing audit and advisory activities, research and athletics compliance, and the status of internal controls.

Committee on Health Affairs. Ms. Towers turned the floor over to Mr. Gary Taffet, Chair of the Committee on Health Affairs, who stated that the Committee met on January 14, 2026, during which members heard from Dr. Robert Johnson, Interim Chancellor of Rutgers Health, who reviewed his priorities for fiscal

stewardship and organizational stability, and from Dr. Jeffrey DiGiovanni, Dean of the School of Health Professions, on academic oversight, partnerships, and workforce pathways. Mr. Taffet also stated that the Committee received presentations on Rutgers Health's budget, University Behavioral Health Care, University Hospital, progress on the medical school integration and accreditation, and the process for selecting the next Rutgers Health Chancellor.

Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics. Ms. Towers asked Mr. Taffet to share a report on the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics. Mr. Taffet noted that during the Committee's meeting on January 22, 2026, Ms. Keli Zinn, Director of Athletics, highlighted record academic achievement among Rutgers–New Brunswick student-athletes, reporting an all-time high 3.422 fall GPA and 356 Dean's List honorees across all sports. Mr. Taffet then reported that Ms. Zinn provided a positive update on Name, Image, and Likeness fundraising and discussed fall sports competitiveness, capital projects, staffing, and the NCAA agreed-upon procedures report.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Towers called on Dr. Dougherty to introduce and move the Consent Agenda for vote. Dr. Dougherty asked if any members of the Board wanted to remove any items from the Consent Agenda for discussion. There being none, and upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs, and the Committee on Health Affairs, Dr. Dougherty moved for approval the following agenda items:

- Approval of Minutes of the Board of Governors – December 9, 2025<sup>1</sup>

### **Executive Committee**

February 11, 2026

- Salary Approval for Defensive Coordinator, Men's Football, Rutgers–New Brunswick<sup>2</sup>

### **Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**

January 13, 2026

- Academic Appointment with Tenure Recommendation<sup>3</sup>
- Proposed Resolution Appointing Joseph Contessa to the Omar Boraie Endowed Chair in Molecular Medicine

**WHEREAS**, the quality of the faculty is the most enduring hallmark of a great institution, and an endowed chair provides a singular opportunity to recognize and sustain innovative intellectual work that embraces teaching, discovery, and public engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, the chair was established with a generous gift from Omar Boraie to advance cancer research and its potential for translating scientific breakthroughs into patient therapies, and to support New Brunswick in its transformation into a health care city, and the gift was matched by an anonymous donor as part of the university's fundraising campaign, Our Rutgers, Our Future: A Campaign for Excellence; and

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<sup>1</sup> Available Upon Request in the Office of the Secretary of the University

<sup>2</sup> Available Upon Request in the Office of the Secretary of the University

<sup>3</sup> Available Upon Request in the Office of the Secretary of the University

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Joseph Contessa is a nationally and internationally recognized physician-scientist, with a scientific focus on the interface between radiation biology and glycosylation mechanisms, whose research has led to foundational discoveries with translational significance in oncology; has an exceptional record of funding, including multiple awards from the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of War, American Cancer Society, and venture-funded innovation projects; and has amassed over 70 peer-reviewed publications in top-tier journals, with scholarly contributions being recognized through numerous awards and honors, such as the Fellowship of the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the Harrington Discovery Institute Scholar-Innovator Award, as well as his multiple patents in glycosylation inhibition and drug development providing real-world solutions for enhancing patient care and outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Joseph Contessa has been recommended for the Omar Boraie Endowed Chair in Molecular Medicine by Rutgers Cancer Institute Director Steven K. Libutti, Dean of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Amy Murtha, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences Interim Chancellor Robert L. Johnson, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Keena Arbuthnot, and University President William F. Tate IV; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 13, 2026, the Board of Governors' Committee on Academic and Student Affairs endorsed the naming of Dr. Joseph Contessa as the next holder of the Omar Boraie Endowed Chair in Molecular Medicine, and recommended approval by the Board of Governors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs, the Board of Governors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, approves the appointment of Dr. Joseph Contessa to the Omar Boraie Endowed Chair in Molecular Medicine, for a five-year renewable term, commencing August 1, 2025.

- Proposed Resolution Establishing the Bachelor of Science in Management and Work Degree Program at the School of Management and Labor Relations

**WHEREAS**, the School of Management and Labor Relations at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, seeks to establish a Bachelor of Science in Management and Work degree program; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed degree program has been designed to prepare graduates with the skills to lead and develop solutions that arise from the inter-related, dynamic forces that affect the motivation and effectiveness of today's workforce while simultaneously anticipating and planning for the needs of tomorrow's workers, organizations, and society; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed degree program has been reviewed by an external consultant who has recommended its approval, and resources to launch the program are in place; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed program has been approved by the Faculty and the Dean of the School of Management and Labor Relations Mark Anner, Chancellor of Rutgers University–New Brunswick Francine Conway, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Keena Arbuthnot, and University President William Tate IV; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 13, 2026, the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs reviewed the proposal establishing the Bachelor of Science in Management and Work degree program and recommended its approval by the Board of Governors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs, the Board of Governors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, approves the establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Management and Work degree program, to be offered by the School of Management and Labor Relations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors affirms that the aforementioned degree program, under the standards of the Higher Education Restructuring Act of 1994, does not exceed or change Rutgers' mission, does not require significant new resources, and does not raise significant issues of duplication with existing New Jersey programs; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that, upon approval by the Board of Governors of the Bachelor of Science in Management and Work degree program, notification will be forwarded to the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education.

- Proposed Resolution Establishing the Master of Science in FinTech Analytics Degree Program at the School of Graduate Studies

**WHEREAS**, the School of Graduate Studies at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, seeks to establish a Master of Science in FinTech Analytics degree program; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed degree program has been designed to prepare graduates with advanced skills and knowledge in financial technology, data analytics, artificial intelligence, and blockchain, positioning them with the necessary tools to excel in the dynamic and rapidly evolving industry of FinTech; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed degree program has been reviewed by an external consultant who has recommended its approval, and resources to launch the program are in place; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed program has been approved by the Faculty and the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies Mark Robson, Chancellor of Rutgers University–New Brunswick Francine Conway, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Keena Arbuthnot, and University President William Tate IV; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 13, 2026, the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs reviewed the proposal establishing the Master of Science in FinTech Analytics degree program and recommended its approval by the Board of Governors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs, the Board of Governors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, approves the establishment of the Master of Science in FinTech Analytics degree program, to be offered by the School of Graduate Studies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors affirms that the aforementioned degree program, under the standards of the Higher Education Restructuring Act of 1994, does not exceed or change Rutgers' mission, does not require significant new resources, and does not raise significant issues of duplication with existing New Jersey programs; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that, upon approval by the Board of Governors of the Master of Science in FinTech Analytics degree program, notification will be forwarded to the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education.

**Committee on Health Affairs**

January 14, 2026

- Minutes of the University Behavioral Health Care Leadership Committee Meeting of September 15, 2025.<sup>4</sup>

**REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

Ms. Towers turned the floor over to Ms. Lucille Foster, Chair of the University Senate, for a report. Ms. Foster noted that the University Senate met on January 23, 2026 via Zoom. Ms. Foster discussed a recommended report on common hour exams and an information-only report on the Senate's role in the Policy on Policies, Process and Procedures. She also reported on a series of academic freedom trainings.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None reported.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None reported.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Towers shared some closing remarks, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony Stoeckert  
Writing Associate

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<sup>4</sup> Available Upon Request in the Office of the Secretary of the University