

CAMDEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
December 8, 2017

A meeting of the Camden Board of Directors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey was held on Friday, December 8, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Rutgers–Camden Campus Center, Camden, New Jersey. Mr. Dudley Rivers presided as Chair.

Present and constituting a quorum were Bender, Dougherty, McCue, Rivers, and Stewart.

Absent was Redd.

Attending for the university administration were Haddon, Jones, and Rambert.

Also present were Shankman, faculty representative to the Board of Directors and Hussain and Kovach-Orr, undergraduate and graduate representatives, respectively, to the Board of Directors.

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

Ms. Jones, Secretary of the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors, announced that pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231 (Open Public Meetings Act), public notice of this meeting was filed on December 1, 2017 with the Office of the Secretary of State of New Jersey and four newspapers, the *Cherry Hill Courier-Post*, the *New Brunswick Home News Tribune*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* (Cherry Hill) 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. In addition, notice of this meeting was posted on the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors website.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Ms. Jones asked the board members if they had read the meeting agenda and supporting documents and if anyone had a possible conflict of interest to disclose. No conflicts were reported.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Jones noted that roll would be taken during the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 MEETING

Mr. Rivers called attention to the minutes of the September 12, 2017 meeting that were distributed to the Board and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Receiving no objections, Mr. Rivers called for a motion which was seconded and asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, the minutes were approved unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Rivers welcomed Ms. Tooba Hussain as undergraduate student representative to the board. A member on the Honors College, Ms. Hussain dual majors in political science and urban studies and serves many leadership roles on campus, including president of the Student Governing Association.

CHANCELLOR'S UPDATE

Chancellor Haddon provided the Board with an update on important happenings since the last Board meeting on September 12, 2017.

With only a few weeks remaining in the fall semester, Chancellor Haddon acknowledged the faculty and staff's hard work to inspire and meet the needs of the rapidly growing student body. For the first time in the history of Rutgers University–Camden, over 7,000 students are enrolled. The Bridging the Gap program has accelerated undergraduate growth and created access for larger numbers of first-year and African American and Hispanic students. Graduate programs have experienced tremendous growth as increasing numbers of undergraduate students transition to graduate programs at Rutgers University–Camden or begin graduate study as undergraduates. Enrollment at Rutgers Law School at Camden has grown ten percent since 2015.

One leadership position search has concluded and two more are nearing completion. Chancellor Haddon announced that Dr. Jason Rivera has accepted the position of vice chancellor for student academic success and will begin in mid-January. Chancellor Haddon expects to announce appointments in January for the Dean, School of Nursing–Camden and the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement. Chancellor Haddon commended the work of the search committees.

Progress is being made in the “eds and meds” corridor. An architectural firm has been selected to design the School of Business–Camden, and groundbreaking for the Joint Health Sciences Building was celebrated in October. Having presented to the CEO Growth Council earlier in the morning, Chancellor Haddon indicated the group is very enthusiastic about Rutgers' contribution to growth in the city of Camden and the region.

Chancellor Haddon concluded her report by answering questions from Board members.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY–CAMDEN

Chancellor Haddon indicated that the board would like to delve into aspects of the campus experience, and today's focus is on civic engagement initiatives at Rutgers University–Camden. Chancellor Haddon said that “civic engagement is one of Rutgers University–Camden's primary goals and, in many ways, represents the crown jewel of what we do because of its tangible impact on the city of Camden and on our students.” Data show that involvement in civic engagement and experiential learning is key to retention and student success, and this effect is more pronounced for first generation students. Chancellor Haddon introduced Dr. Nyeema Watson, associate chancellor for civic engagement, to provide an overview of the history of the Office of Civic Engagement at Rutgers University–Camden and the programs it offers.

Although always committed to its host city, Rutgers University–Camden became more intentional in building a relationship with the city under the leadership of former chancellor Wendell Pritchett. In 2010 a year-long listening tour was conducted to learn from a wide variety of constituencies how the university could be a better partner. A significant need in creating pathways from K-12 education to higher education was expressed by the community. The Office of Civic Engagement now has three major K-12 initiatives: Rutgers Future Scholars, the Hill Family Center for College Access, and the North Camden Schools Partnership.

Rutgers Future Scholars works with 250 students per year in grades 8-12, providing tutoring and mentoring in an effort to help students figure out a pathway to transition to higher education. Scholars admitted to Rutgers University receive a tuition-free education. Four classes of scholars are in college currently, most attending Rutgers University–Camden. Last year celebrated the first cohort of scholars graduating from college.

Since Rutgers Future Scholars serves 250 students, the Hill Family Center for College Access was created with a generous gift from alumni George and Washington Hill, to serve greater

numbers of students. Last year, the Hill Family Center for College Access supported 1800 students, helping them to choose institutions of higher education and to complete applications for admission and financial aid. In addition, the Hill Family Center for College Access hosts tours of Rutgers University–Camden for students of all ages, including elementary grades, to encourage underrepresented youth to see that college is a pathway for them, whether at Rutgers or another institution.

To reach students earlier, the Office of Civic Engagement formed the North Camden Schools Partnership which focuses on grades K-12. Last year, the North Camden Schools Partnership served 500 students in grades 4-8 with STEM-based out-of-school-time programs. Rutgers University–Camden student ambassadors assist the students with homework help and mentoring. In addition, club activities and enrichment activities are provided through partnership with a variety of organizations including the Center for Aquatic Sciences, Legacy Youth Tennis and Education, and the Vetri Foundation, to name a few. To assist them longer, it is hoped that these students will transition to Rutgers Future Scholars or the Hill Family Center for College Access.

Through engaged civic learning, the Office of Civic Engagement also brings the community into the classroom by training faculty to incorporate civic engagement into the courses they teach. Dr. Watson indicated that “this greatly expands the role civic engagement and community partnership play in the day-to-day-education of Rutgers University–Camden students.” Faculty and students have embraced this: 74% of students who participate in service contribute 20 hours or more, and this is often in addition to part-time and full-time employment.

To hear directly from students who engage in this work, Dr. Watson introduced two seniors at Rutgers University–Camden who work with Rutgers Future Scholars. Mr. Marcellus Hill has been with the program for ten years, first as a scholar and now as lead ambassador for students in grade 12. Mr. Hill said that Rutgers Future Scholars has made a big impact on him and his family and has “helped him realize how much potential he has.” He is committed to helping youth “cultivate learning within themselves and their families.” Now a lead ambassador for grade 11, Ms. Liz Ramos joined the program as a student ambassador. As a young girl, the impact of mentoring allowed her “to set personal and family goals and to take action.” She is “committed to doing the same for others, acting as a change agent for families who would like to seize opportunity to advance their education.”

Dr. Watson concluded her presentation by answering questions from Board members.

FOOD PANTRY

Chancellor Haddon called upon Dr. Neuza Maria Serra to make a presentation on the food pantry at Rutgers University–Camden.

Acutely aware that students nationwide and here at Rutgers University–Camden experience food insecurity, the staff of Student Health Services spearheaded an effort to provide consistent help to students. With training from PhilAbundance, Student Health Services’ Madrid Moore became the driving force in creating a food pantry at Rutgers University–Camden. Housed in Student Health Services, the food pantry opened on October 3. Publicized by social media, use of the food pantry is growing dramatically. Within its first two months of operation, the food pantry distributed 1,000 pounds of food and 800 meals. Unlike public food pantries, the campus food pantry has more convenient hours for students, requires student identification but no proof of financial eligibility, and takes requests for items.

Dr. Serra said the goal of the food pantry is to increase students’ quality of life and their ability to learn. The food pantry accepts in-kind donations, and an online system has been set up for monetary donations.

Dr. Serra concluded her presentation by answering questions from Board members.

Ms. Jones thanked Dr. Dougherty for his leadership in spearheading the Board’s effort to support the food pantry and for their generous in-kind and monetary donations.

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Chancellor Haddon called upon Mr. Larry Gaines, senior vice chancellor for administration and finance, to provide an update on capital projects at Rutgers University–Camden.

USA Architects has been selected to design the School of Business–Camden. At the kick-off meeting for the project in mid-January, USA Architects will meet with representatives of the campus community to develop the building’s details. Completion of construction drawings is expected by March 2019. Once the bid is awarded, construction of the 100,000 square-foot building should take approximately 18 months.

Student housing is currently at capacity. Brailsford & Dunlavey, Inc. is currently conducting a needs study to determine when and how much new housing will be needed at Rutgers University–Camden.

The building located at 327-329 Cooper Street is currently undergoing renovation and will house the Department of Childhood Studies. Occupancy is expected in fall 2018.

Mr. Gaines concluded his report by answering questions from Board members.

UPDATE ON THE JOINT HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS

Mr. Rivers called on Mr. Kris Kolluri, CEO of the Rowan University/Rutgers–Camden Board of Governors to provide an update on the Joint Health Sciences Campus.

The foundation of the Joint Health Sciences Building will be complete in the next six weeks, and steel will start to go up within the next two months. A demolition contractor has been engaged for demolition of the retail stores across Broadway from the Joint Health Sciences Building. The cleared space may provide temporary parking for Rutgers University–Camden.

Property acquisition for the School of Business–Camden is going well. Although litigation is pending, the building’s owner has received all needed approvals from the City of Camden to move the present facility to Sixth Street and Atlantic Avenue.

The Rowan University/Rutgers–Camden Board of Governors received recently a population health grant of five hundred thousand dollars from the State of New Jersey. The Joint Board is seeking joint proposals from Rowan University and Rutgers University for a population health research project.

An attorney has been hired to staff the medical/legal partnership funded by the Rowan University/Rutgers–Camden Board of Governors.

The Joint Board finalized the curriculum for the Alzheimer Journey Coordinator Navigator Program, the first program of its kind in the nation. The Joint Board has applied for a five million dollar grant to fund the program for two years and hopes to partner with Rowan University and Rutgers University–Camden on this opportunity.

Full employment for the second cohort of Camden city high school students in the medical assistant program is expected by the end of December. A federal grant provided full support for the education, paid internships, and full-time employment of the students who completed the program.

Lastly, the federal government has awarded a grant to the City of Camden to renovate Cooper Street to facilitate traffic.

Mr. Kolluri concluded his presentation by answering questions from Board members.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Rivers directed the Board’s attention to old business. There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rivers directed the Board's attention to new business. There was no further new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Sarah Joslin of Cherry Hill, New Jersey indicated that Rutgers University–New Brunswick and Rutgers University–Newark have completed transportation plans. She asked what the timeline is for Rutgers University–Camden's transportation plan and requested that the topic be included on the agenda for the next board meeting. She also requested that Rutgers University–Camden assist schools in Camden which often do not have libraries, leaving students poorly equipped with research skills that are essential for college readiness.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rivers asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by,

Michele L. Robinson
Rutgers University–Camden Chancellor's Office