

CAMDEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
September 12, 2018

A meeting of the Camden Board of Directors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. in the Rutgers–Camden Campus Center, Camden, New Jersey. Mr. Dudley Rivers presided as Chair.

Present and constituting a quorum were Dietrich, Dougherty, McCue, Rivers, and Stewart (via conference call).

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

Also present were Shankman, faculty representative to the Board of Directors and Samuel Adepoju, undergraduate student representative 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 August 31, 2018 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 all members were present, with Mr. Stewart participating by conference call.

INDUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Rivers introduced Mr. Robert Roesener, deputy general counsel and member of the Bar of the State of New Jersey, to administer the Oath of Allegiance and Office to induct new members. Mr. Roesener called on Ms. Marisa Dietrich to rise. Ms. Dietrich was inducted and joined the Rutgers University–Camden Board of Directors as a member representative of the Rutgers University Board of Trustees.

Mr. Rivers also welcomed Dr. Andrew Shankman, professor of history and returning faculty representative to the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors, and Mr. Samuel Adepoju, a senior biology major, and president of the Student Government Association, as the undergraduate representative to the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY–CAMDEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Annual elections for the positions of chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer were held. Mr. Rivers turned the chair over to Dr. Dougherty for the election of chair. Dr. Dougherty presented Mr. Rivers for the position of chair for the term September 2018 to September 2019 and called for a motion, which was made and seconded. Mr. Rivers left the room, and Dr. Dougherty asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Dr. Dougherty called for a vote, and Mr. Rivers was unanimously elected as chair. Mr. Rivers rejoined the meeting and assumed the chair.

Mr. Rivers presented Dr. Dougherty for the position of vice chair for the term September 2018 to September 2019 and called for a motion, which was seconded. Dr. Dougherty left the room, and Mr. Rivers asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Rivers called for a vote, and Dr. Dougherty was unanimously elected as vice-chair. Dr. Dougherty returned to the room.

Mr. Rivers presented Ms. Jones for the position of secretary for the term September 2018 to September 2019 and called for a motion, which was seconded. Ms. Jones left the room. Mr. Rivers asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Rivers called for a vote, and Ms. Jones was unanimously elected as secretary. Ms. Jones returned to the room.

Mr. Rivers presented Mr. J. Michael Gower *in absentia* for the position of treasurer for the term September 2018 to September 2019 and called for a motion, which was seconded. Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Rivers called for a vote, and Mr. Gower was elected unanimously as treasurer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2018 MEETING

Mr. Rivers called attention to the minutes of the April 9, 2018 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.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICIES

Mr. Rivers called on Ms. Jones who reminded Board members and representatives about the need to review, sign, and return to the Office of the Secretary the policy statement on confidentiality of proceedings of the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors’ meetings.

UPDATE ON THE JOINT HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS

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

Ms. Redd presented artist renderings and a virtual tour of the Joint Health Sciences Center located at the corner of Broadway and MLK Boulevard. She also provided an update on the progressing construction. A hard hat tour will be scheduled for interested stakeholders when the stairwells are completed.

The Joint Board has site control of Block 1400 and will serve as conveners and facilitators to work with partners to envision this space as the future Phase III of the Joint Health Sciences Campus. Ms. Redd indicated that “the Joint Board seeks to continue growing Camden as southern New Jersey’s biohub and to leverage the medical, education, and research assets we have in the city to continue to grow the “eds and meds” corridor.”

Ms. Redd also provided a brief update on the Joint Board's research and academic programs. The Joint Board has approved a grant of \$500,000 for FY19 to serve as seed money to fund collaborative biomedical research projects between Rowan University and Rutgers University–Camden. Dr. Michael Palis, provost of Rutgers University–Camden, and Dr. James Newell, provost of Rowan University, are developing criteria for the submission and review of proposals.

Lastly, the Joint Board received a planning grant from the State of New Jersey to initiate development of a population health research institute and related research and community-engagement initiatives focused on population health challenges in southern New Jersey. The planning committee is co-chaired by Dr. Michael Palis, provost of Rutgers University–Camden, and Dr. Annette Reboli, dean of Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

Ms. Redd concluded her presentation by answering questions from Board members.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chancellor Haddon provided the Board with an update on important happenings since the last Board meeting on April 9, 2018.

After a busy summer, Chancellor Haddon welcomed new students to Rutgers University–Camden at New Student Orientation. Enrollment is currently 7,500 students and is on track to meet the strategic goal of 8500 by 2020. First-year students currently total 1,100, a 60% increase from 2016. Enrollment in the law school and graduate programs has also increased. The student body is extremely diverse, includes an increasing number of international students, and reflects the southern New Jersey demographic more fully now. The Bridging the Gap program has increased visibility of the campus and opportunity for access to higher education. A student success focus has been implemented to ensure that students thrive and graduate. Housing has been at capacity for several years and needs to be addressed quickly.

Continuing the tradition of the last several years, Rutgers University–Camden will host speakers and conferences that will enrich discussion and opportunity for student/faculty interchange. Colson Whitehead, author of *The Underground Railroad*, will meet with students and present a public lecture on September 26. Whitehead's book was the Rutgers Reads selection for 2018. Hispanic Heritage month will be celebrated in October with a full schedule of activities, among them a public lecture by civil rights icon Dolores Huerta and a conference on examining Puerto Rico one year after Hurricane Maria. During that event, a memorandum of understanding will be signed with the University of Puerto Rico to continue Rutgers University–Camden's leadership role with higher education on the island.

Chancellor Haddon highlighted several recent accomplishments. Rutgers University–Camden continues to receive high recognition in a variety of national rankings. *Washington Monthly* recognized Rutgers University–Camden as the #4 "Bang for the Buck" university, following Harvard and Princeton. The School of Nursing–Camden received the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Innovations in Professional Nursing Education award. Annual giving has increased, both in the number of donors and the amount donated.

Chancellor Haddon introduced Dr. Donna Nickitas, who joined Rutgers University–Camden in July as dean of the School of Nursing. Dean Nickitas said she "seeks to create a culture of engagement and excellence, ensuring that faculty act as coaches, changemakers, and champions for students as they emerge as the next generation of nurse clinicians, researchers, scholars, and leaders."

Dr. Kriste Lindenmeyer, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences and the graduate school, is stepping away from the deanship and returning to the faculty on January 1. Chancellor Haddon thanked her for her service. A search is progressing for Dean Lindenmeyer's replacement, and a strong pool of applicants has emerged.

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

UPDATE ON THE CAPITAL PLAN

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

Renovation of the Artis Building at 327/29 Cooper Street is complete, and the building will house the Department of Childhood Studies. A ribbon cutting will be scheduled. Robeson Library received two enhancements: the roof was replaced and new granite steps are being installed. To accommodate the growing number of nursing students, two biology labs in the Science Building are being converted into a chemistry lab. Completion is expected at the beginning of the spring semester.

A One-Stop Shop opened recently which houses the Registrar, Admissions, Financial Aid, Student Accounting, and Parking. It is designed to provide students with answers to primary questions efficiently in one location. Specialists who can answer any secondary questions are nearby.

The design process is underway to create a Kite and Key computer retail store on the first floor of the Campus Center. The store will be available to faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

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

PHILADELPHIA FEDERAL RESERVE BANK PRESENTATION ON BRIDGING THE GAP STUDY

Mr. Rivers called on Ms. Eileen Divringi, community development research associate at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, to report on the Community Development Studies and Education Group’s research on Rutgers University–Camden’s Bridging the Gap tuition grant program.

The study, “How Does Last-Dollar Financial Aid Affect First-Year Student Outcomes? Evidence from the Bridging the Gap Study,” is a five-year longitudinal study begun in fall 2016 with the first Bridging the Gap cohort. Ms. Divringi presented findings from the first year of the study, which utilized quantitative and qualitative measures, on enrollment, affordability, and academic performance, credit completion, and retention.

With respect to enrollment, Bridging the Gap resulted in statistically significant gains in enrollment of admitted New Jersey residents, particularly among African American and Latino students. With respect to affordability, interviews with students indicate that many are able to focus more effectively on their studies because they feel less stress about finances and are able to work fewer hours or switch to on-campus employment that is more accommodating of their schedule. Some students, however, took out loans to cover out-of-pocket expenses (e.g. for textbooks, computers, mobile phones, etc.). Interviews with students were helpful in identifying areas of student concern and knowledge gaps about the program. With respect to a composite measure of academic performance, credit completion, and retention, statistically significant positive results show promise. However, since a comparison group of students receiving needs-based financial aid also showed significant positive improvement, positive gains are not necessarily attributable to Bridging the Gap and may reflect the impact of student success initiatives implemented campus-wide.

Ms. Divringi completed her 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 new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Sara Joslin of Cherry Hill encouraged the School of Nursing–Camden to be involved with the Community Action Network for Camden, an organization which focuses on maternal and child nutrition.

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 4:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by,

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