

**CAMDEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**  
**September 23, 2021**

A meeting of the Camden Board of Directors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey was held on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Mr. Frank Hundley presided as Chair.

Present and constituting a quorum were Covington, Dougherty, Dietrich, Hundley, and Tambussi.

Attending for the university administration were Tillis, Sepanic, and Roesener.

Also present was Rabinowitz, faculty representative to the Camden Board of Directors, Ciallella, graduate representative to the Camden Board of Directors, and Johnson, undergraduate representative to the Camden Board of Directors.

**CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Hundley called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and extended a warm welcome to the new chancellor Dr. Antonio Tillis, to new board members Mr. Anthony Covington and Dr. James Dougherty, and to the new undergraduate student representative Mx. Sydney Johnson.

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

Mr. Michael Sepanic, Secretary of the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors, announced that pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231 and Public Law 2020, Chapter 11 (Open Public Meetings Act), public notice of this meeting was filed on September 17, 2021 with the Office of the Secretary of 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. In addition, notice of this meeting was posted on the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors website.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT**

Mr. Sepanic 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.

**INDUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Mr. Hundley 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 Mr. Anthony Covington and Dr. James Dougherty, who were inducted and joined the Rutgers University–Camden Board of Directors as member representatives of the Rutgers University Board of Trustees and the Rutgers University Board of Governors, respectively.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY–CAMDEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OF APPOINTEES TO THE ROWAN UNIVERSITY/RUTGERS–CAMDEN BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Annual elections for the positions of chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer were held. Mr. Hundley turned the chair over to Mr. Sepanic for election of the chair. Mr. Sepanic presented Mr. Hundley for the position of chair for the term September 2021 to September 2022 and called for a motion, which was made and seconded. Mr. Sepanic asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Sepanic called for a vote, and Mr. Hundley was unanimously elected as chair.

Mr. Hundley assumed the chair and presented Dr. Dougherty for the position of vice chair for the term September 2021 to September 2022 and called for a motion, which was made and seconded. Mr. Hundley asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Hundley called for a vote, and Dr. Dougherty was unanimously elected as vice chair.

Mr. Hundley presented Mr. Sepanic for the position of secretary and Mr. Michael Gower *in absentia* for the position of treasurer for the term September 2021 to September 2022. Mr. Hundley called for a motion, which was made and seconded, and asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Hundley called for a vote, and Mr. Sepanic and Mr. Gower were unanimously elected as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Mr. Hundley presented Mr. William Tambussi for the position of appointee to the Rowan University/Rutgers–Camden Board of Governors which is coterminous with Mr. Tambussi’s term on the Rutgers Board of Governors, ending in 2024. Mr. Hundley called for a motion, which was made and seconded, and asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Hundley called for a vote, and Mr. Tambussi was unanimously elected as appointee to the Rowan University/Rutgers–Camden Board of Governors.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 21, 2021 MEETING**

Mr. Hundley called attention to the minutes of the May 21, 2021 meeting that were distributed to the Board and asked if there were any additions or corrections. Receiving no objections, Mr. Hundley 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. Hundley called on Mr. Sepanic 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.

**CHANCELLOR’S REPORT**

Currently within the first 100 days of his tenure, Chancellor Tillis shared observations and insights gathered from his ongoing listening tour, important happenings at Rutgers University–Camden, and some of his priorities.

Chancellor Tillis continues his listening tour by speaking with students, faculty, staff, alumni, community and business leaders, as well as elected officials. He has been “overwhelmed by the

indomitable passion that exists for Rutgers–Camden.” As a first-generation student himself, Chancellor Tillis is keenly attuned to the challenges students face as they seek to complete their degrees and achieve their goals. However, he is also aware of the opportunities provided by Rutgers–Camden, which he described as the “gateway of access to the transformative power of the Rutgers experience” in South Jersey. He seeks to create new learning experiences and academic programs that provide students with vital critical thinking skills. He is committed to providing the academic enterprise with the support needed to thrive as a research institution, to provide students with unparalleled learning opportunities, and to define Camden and southern New Jersey as a nexus for innovation.

High vaccination rates against COVID-19 and adherence to rigorous health protocols have enabled students, faculty, and staff to return to campus for the fall semester and will permit recognition of the classes of 2020 and 2021 at a special event at the BB&T Pavilion in November. Incoming classes for this and last year were introduced to the campus and to their host city of Camden in early September. Demand for housing remains strong as many students actively seek the urban college experience Rutgers–Camden provides. An institution of 6,800 undergraduate and graduate students with strong growth in graduate programs, Chancellor Tillis seeks “to expand our reach to new markets to build an even stronger class for next fall.” New degree completion programs with county college partners, such as the RN-to-BSN at Camden County College, exemplify this strategy.

Diversity of the student body has increased and more accurately reflects the face of New Jersey and the nation. With 55% of undergraduates coming from families where they are positioned to become the first to earn a college degree, Rutgers University–Camden is now a “majority minority” campus. Chancellor Tillis called Rutgers–Camden “an institution on the rise,” citing increases in rankings for social mobility among the top 25 public universities in the Northeast by *Washington Monthly* magazine and nationally in this area by *U.S. News and World Report*. In addition, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Rutgers University–Camden at 148 among national universities, up from 153 last year and 166 the previous year.

Although Chancellor Tillis said these rankings are “gratifying,” he also said they “don’t do justice to the focus and ambition” of Rutgers University–Camden students. To that end, he detailed some recent student achievements. During 2021, Rutgers University–Camden students earned three of five slots for highly competitive internships at Coriell Institute in Camden. Sujay Ratna was named a Phi Beta Kappa Public Service Scholar, marking the second year that a Rutgers–Camden student earned this competitive honor. Cleo Falvey, a new Ph.D. student in computational and integrative biology, won a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, which recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines; and School of Business undergraduate Pariti Sutaria was selected for this summer’s Library of Congress Junior Fellows Program. In addition, students, alongside their professors, are making a dramatic impact on nearby communities. By vaccinating over 70,000 individuals at mass vaccination sites in Blackwood and Camden, School of Nursing–Camden students and faculty have served as a critical resource in the fight against COVID-19. In August, three graduate students in the master’s program in forensic science led training in fingerprinting for law enforcement officers in the prosecutors’ offices in Camden and Gloucester. Initiatives such as these demonstrate that connections among students, faculty, and the public good are vibrant at Rutgers University–Camden.

Chancellor Tillis concluded his presentation by outlining some of the priorities he planned to discuss at his first Chancellor’s Fall Address on September 28. Among them were intensifying work in matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion for students, faculty, and staff, including implementation of a robust series of strategic initiatives; creating a culture of and support for experiential learning for all students, including a new civic leadership internship program that will place Rutgers–Camden students as interns throughout Camden City government; and, initiatives to help faculty build the research programs needed to sustain Rutgers–Camden’s status as an R2 research university. None of these exciting initiatives would be possible without funds to support them. Chancellor Tillis announced that fundraising for fiscal year 2021 ended at \$7.24 million, up from \$4 million the previous year, indicating that many donors wish to invest in Rutgers–Camden’s future.

Following his presentation, Chancellor Tillis thanked the board for their support and answered their questions.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Hundley directed the Board's attention to old business. There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Hundley asked if members of the public wished to comment. No public comment was offered.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hundley asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by,

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