

**CAMDEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**  
**January 25, 2023**

A meeting of the Camden Board of Directors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey was held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. in the Rutgers–Camden Campus Center, Camden, New Jersey. Dr. James Dougherty presided as Chair.

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

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

Also present were Rabinowitz, faculty representative to the Camden Board of Directors, and Carr, graduate representative to the Camden Board of Directors.

**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 (Open Public Meetings Act), public notice of this meeting was filed on January 19, 2023 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 & Courier News*, 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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 MEETING**

Dr. Dougherty called attention to the minutes of the September 20, 2022 meeting that were distributed to the Board and asked if there were any additions or corrections. Receiving no objections, Dr. Dougherty called for a motion which was seconded and asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, the minutes were approved unanimously.

## **CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Chancellor Antonio Tillis provided his report to the board regarding the status of the campus, including introductions of new executive staff members and an update on searches; highlights of faculty and student achievements; and updates on donor support and recent and upcoming activities at Rutgers University–Camden.

Chancellor Tillis introduced Bob McKee as the Senior Vice Chancellor-Designate for Administration and Finance, noting Mr. McKee's 25-plus years of experience in accounting, finance, and business development. He most recently served as vice president of finance at Antioch College. Mr. McKee will work alongside the current Senior Vice Chancellor, Larry Gaines, until his retirement on Aug 1. Chancellor Tillis then introduced Dr. Nwando Achebe, a scholar who is being mentored as an ACE Fellow with President Holloway and who visits the Camden campus on Wednesdays. He then reported that Dr. Sandra Richtermeyer, business school dean at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, will begin as provost and executive vice chancellor of academic affairs beginning June 15. An internationally recognized scholar, Dr. Richtermeyer emerged as the successful candidate after a thorough national search. Chancellor Tillis reported that the search for a dean of Rutgers Law School was continuing and that he looked forward to meeting the candidates during upcoming scheduled visits to Camden and Newark. Finally, Chancellor Tillis thanked Dr. Benedetto Piccoli for his service as vice chancellor for research as Dr. Piccoli returned to the faculty and noted that Dr. Michael Palis, the former provost, would serve as interim vice chancellor for research while a national search is conducted for a permanent successor.

Chancellor Tillis shared examples of the many impressive achievements of Rutgers-Camden's faculty, staff, and students. Dr. Susan Miller, associate professor of childhood studies, received \$800,000 in funding from the Mellon Foundation to support pathways to the humanities for undergraduates through childhood studies at Rutgers–Camden. Prof. Kimberlee Moran, associate teaching professor of forensic science, receive a Fulbright Specialist Program award to help establish a forensic anthropology unit in Belize. Dr. John Oberdiek, distinguished professor of law, won the 2023 Fred Berger Memorial Prize from the American Philosophical Association. Dr. May Wunnenberg, clinical assistant professor of nursing, is the PI for a four-year, \$997,000 Health Resource Services Administration grant. And, Mavis Asiedu-Frimpong, executive director of the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs, was appointed to Governor Murphy's New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council. Impressive recent student achievements include participation in symposia, creative writing publication, conference awards, and placement in the international GAMMA case competition in South Korea.

Rutgers–Camden continues to strongly attract external funding. Recent successes include a multi-million-dollar bequest from a graduate to create an endowed chair in entrepreneurship in the Camden School of Business, and a \$1.4 million federal appropriation to support Rutgers-Camden's new civic engagement initiatives.

Rutgers–Camden provides a wide range of activities for students, faculty, and staff to engage in. In January, the campus robustly celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Activities included a community service project with Mayor Victor Carstarphen and thought-provoking talks by filmmaker Keith Beauchamp, President Holloway, and civil rights activist Tim Wise. Chancellor Tillis noted that Rutgers-Camden’s work in the areas of diversity, inclusion, and civic engagement happens year-round, citing examples of such activities from the fall semester.

Chancellor Tillis concluded his report by noting several exciting upcoming events, including the new Scarlet Raptor Rally that celebrated the women’s and men’s basketball teams on Feb. 8 and the staging of the musical *Rent* in April.

### **FOCUS ON ENROLLMENT**

Dr. Jimmy Jung, senior vice chancellor of enrollment management and student success, reported on enrollment at Rutgers-Camden. He examined the fall 2022 enrollment numbers compared to fall 2021, and then did the same for the spring semesters. In both instances, graduate enrollment increased. During the spring 2023 semester, certain undergraduate indicators – such as county college transfers and first-time-in-college students – showed some improvement over spring 2022. Dr. Jung then looked at fall 2023 enrollment figures and reported some reasons for optimism. He concluded with a discussion about Rutgers-Camden’s recruitment strategies, including increasing enrollment from out of state and internationally, developing new partnerships and programs with community colleges, and rolling out innovative, high-interest programs such as those in data science and prevention science.

### **FOCUS ON ENROLLMENT**

Dr. Marsha Besong, vice chancellor for student academic success, delivered an overview of the many support services that Rutgers-Camden has in place to ensure the retention and success of its students. She highlighted some of the new initiatives in her division. The Student Success Coach Office now administers a college student inventory to create a success plan and identify both supports needed and opportunities for fellowships and development. The Academic Support Center has a new program that utilizes course assistants to recruit students for help through tutoring and recitations, particularly in courses that students often struggle in. The Office of Disability Services has expanded its role to provide 1:1 counseling and holistic support. And, the Distinguished Fellowship and Scholarship Development Program, a new addition to Dr. Besong’s division, helps undergraduates apply for – and achieve – high-profile grants and awards; six students have completed Fulbright applications this academic year, and 20 students are in the pipeline for participation in Fulbright Summer Institutes. Dr. Besong concluded her presentation by indicating that Student Academic Success works well in collaboration with other

campus partners, among them the Provost's Office, Student Affairs, and the Division of Diversity, Inclusion, and Civic Engagement.

### **UPDATE ON THE ROWAN UNIVERSITY/RUTGERS–CAMDEN BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Mr. Jeffrey Nash, CEO of the Rowan University/Rutgers–Camden Board of Governors, provided an update on the Joint Board and the Joint Health Sciences Center. As the new CEO of the Joint Board, Mr. Nash introduced himself as someone who is passionate about Camden, with longstanding ties to the city. He looks forward to partnering with Rutgers University–Camden, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, Rowan University, and Camden County College to advance the “Eds and Meds” corridor for the benefit of the city and its residents. Mr. Nash provided a brief overview of the Joint Board’s education programs and the collaborative, community-engaged research initiative that has awarded \$500,000 through the South Jersey Institute for Population Health to more than 20 projects. He provided a recap of the Joint Board’s capital projects, including the Camden Athletic Complex and the Joint Health Sciences Center, which houses facilities for Rutgers University–Camden, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, Rowan University, and Camden County College. He concluded by showing a rendering for a proposed Life Sciences Center, a three-story, 36,000 square-foot academic and research facility, designed to house Rutgers–Camden’s computational and integrative biology program, Rowan’s biomedical engineering research labs, and Camden County College’s simulation labs.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Dougherty directed the Board’s attention to old business. There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Dougherty asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by,

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