

CAMDEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
September 20, 2022

A meeting of the Camden Board of Directors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey was held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. in the Rutgers–Camden Campus Center, Camden, New Jersey. Dr. James Dougherty presided as Chair *pro tempore*.

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

Absent was Tambussi.

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

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

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

Mr. 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 September 15, 2022 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 reviewed 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

Dr. Dougherty 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. Mary DiMartino, who was inducted and joined the Rutgers University–Camden Board of Directors as a member representative of the Rutgers University Board of Governors.

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

Annual elections for the positions of chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer were held. Dr. Dougherty turned the chair over to Mr. Sepanic for the election of chair and left the room. Mr. Sepanic presented Dr. Dougherty for the position of chair for the term September 2022 to September 2023 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 Dr. Dougherty was unanimously elected as chair. Dr. Dougherty rejoined the meeting and assumed the chair.

Dr. Dougherty asked Mr. Covington to leave the room. Dr. Dougherty presented Mr. Covington for the position of vice chair for the term September 2022 to September 2023 and called for a motion, which was made and seconded. Dr. Dougherty asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Dr. Dougherty called for a vote, and Mr. Covington was unanimously elected as vice-chair. Mr. Covington returned to the room.

Dr. Dougherty asked Mr. Sepanic to leave the room. Dr. Dougherty presented Mr. Sepanic for the position of secretary and Mr. Michael Gower *in absentia* for the position of treasurer for the term September 2022 to September 2023 and called for a motion, which was made and seconded. Dr. Dougherty asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Dr. Dougherty called for a vote, and Mr. Sepanic and Mr. Gower were unanimously elected as secretary and treasurer, respectively. Mr. Sepanic returned to the room.

Dr. Dougherty turned the chair over to Mr. Covington and left the room. Mr. Covington presented Dr. Dougherty for the position of appointee to the Rowan University/Rutgers–Camden Board of Governors which is coterminous with Dr. Dougherty’s term on the Rutgers University Board of Governors, ending in 2026. Mr. Covington called for a motion, which was made and seconded, and asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Dr. Dougherty called for a vote, and Dr. Dougherty was unanimously elected as appointee to the Rowan University/Rutgers–Camden Board of Governors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2022 MEETING

Dr. Dougherty called attention to the minutes of the May 12, 2022 meeting that were distributed to the Board and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Ms. Martino said she would abstain from the vote, as she was not a member of the board at that time. Receiving no other objections, Dr. Dougherty called for a motion which was seconded and asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICIES

Dr. Dougherty 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

After congratulating Dr. Dougherty and Mr. Covington on their election as chair and vice chair, respectively, and welcoming Ms. DiMartino and Ms. Carr to the board, Chancellor Tillis provided an update on important happenings since the last Board meeting on May 12, 2022.

Chancellor Tillis was pleased to note that Rutgers–Camden is experiencing many new beginnings. On May 17, 2022 Rutgers–Camden held its inaugural Rites of Passage ceremony, which celebrated graduating Black and Latinx students. In addition, on September 8, 2022, Rutgers–Camden held its first convocation to celebrate the official start of the new school year. Also, this fall 18 scholars and educators joined the Rutgers–Camden faculty in 10 different disciplines, and students were welcomed as the inaugural classes for new programs in Prevention Science (Ph.D. and M.S.) and Finance-Wealth Management (M.S.).

Consistent with national trends, as of September 19, 2022, Chancellor Tillis reported that Rutgers University–Camden experienced declines in total enrollment (down 7.9% from 2021-2022) and undergraduate enrollment (down 12.3% from 2021-2022). These declines were forecasted and demonstrate, in part, impact of the pandemic. Chancellor Tillis thanked Dr. Jimmy Jung, senior vice chancellor, Dr. Craig Westman, vice chancellor for enrollment management, and their teams, for working tirelessly to lessen the anticipated enrollment melt. Conversely, Chancellor Tillis was pleased to share that enrollment in professional schools and graduate study at Rutgers–Camden increased 3.5% over last fall.

As evidenced in part by increases in the 2022-2023 national rankings by *U.S. News and World Report*, Chancellor Tillis said Rutgers University–Camden is “an institution on the rise locally and nationally.” Increased rankings were noted in all three areas: Top Public Universities (#61 from #67); National Universities (#127 from #148); and Best Colleges for Veterans (#83 from #86). Having only joined these groups of classifications in 2002, Chancellor Tillis remarked on the huge jump Rutgers University–Camden has made particularly among national universities, advancing from #168 in 2002 to #127 in 2022.

Chancellor Tillis also shared an update on his 15 strategic initiatives that are scheduled for launch within five years. Announced in July 2022, “15 in 5” focuses on chancellor-level competitive grants and awards to advance the student educational experience and to support the advancement and development of faculty and staff. The first five initiatives were launched in the 2021-2022 academic year: Chancellor’s Learning Abroad Course Scholarship; Chancellor’s Mayoral Internship Program; Chancellor’s Grant for Staff Development; Chancellor’s Lecture Series on Global Racial Reckoning and Civility; and Chancellor’s Grant for Faculty Research. An additional five initiatives will be launched in the 2022-2023 academic year: Chancellor’s Grant for Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration; Chancellor’s Grant for Independent Student Research; Chancellor’s Grant for Pedagogical Innovation; Chancellor’s Grant for Assistant Professor Research Development; Chancellor’s Research Grant for Part-Time Lecturers (PTL); and Chancellor’s Dissertation Completion Award. Chancellor Tillis is extremely enthusiastic about providing opportunities to support part-time lecturers in their scholarly pursuits, offering students opportunities to partner with faculty in research, and advancing pedagogical innovation by supporting new course development. The final four initiatives to be launched in the future include the Chancellor’s Distinguished Visiting Scholar; Chancellor’s Grant for Post-Doctoral Studies; Chancellor’s Grant for Faculty Development in Administrative Roles; and Chancellor’s Faculty Book Completion Grant. Chancellor Tillis commented on the need to institutionalize training for interested faculty to become academic leaders in administrative roles and to help fill a funding gap by targeting the book completion grant toward faculty in the humanities.

Chancellor Tillis distinguished between his strategic initiatives and a strategic plan for the campus. To develop a new strategic plan for Rutgers–Camden, Chancellor Tillis has appointed Dr. Jane Seigel, associate dean for undergraduate education and professor of criminal justice, and Dr. Marsha Besong, vice chancellor for student academic success, to serve as committee co-chairs. They have assembled an inclusive committee representative of the campus to develop the new plan for the campus.

In addition to his “15 in 5” initiatives, Chancellor Tillis also outlined nine strategic goals for 2022-2023 that have advanced to university-wide priorities. They include prioritizing opportunities for student learning experiences; implementing the DEI strategic plan; strengthening the executive leadership structure; strengthening enrollment and retention; enhancing student supports; renewing the built environment; creating opportunities for growing faculty excellence; developing a culture of philanthropy; and advancing the strategic planning process.

Finally, Chancellor Tillis shared that the FY2023 budget for the State of New Jersey delivered strong support for Rutgers–Camden, providing \$7 million in new funding and over \$6 million in ongoing funding.

Chancellor Tillis concluded his report by answering questions from Board members.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Dougherty directed the Board's attention to new business. There was no new business.

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 11:40 a.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by,

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