

CAMDEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
June 18, 2019

A meeting of the Camden Board of Directors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey was held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Rutgers–Camden Alumni House, Camden, New Jersey. In the absence of Chair Dudley Rivers, Vice Chair James Dougherty served as *chair pro tempore*.

Present and constituting a quorum were Dietrich (via teleconference), Dougherty, and McCue.

Absent were Rivers and Stewart.

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

Also present were Rabinowitz, faculty representative to the Board of Directors, and Adepoju, undergraduate 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 June 10, 2019 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.

CHAIR'S OPENING COMMENTS

Dr. Dougherty welcomed Dr. Samuel Rabinowitz, professor of management, as the new faculty representative to the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2018 MEETING

Dr. Dougherty called attention to the minutes of the December 7, 2018 meeting that were distributed to the Board and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. 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 UPDATE

Chancellor Haddon provided the Board with an update on important happenings since the last Board meeting on December 7, 2018, including noted speakers, enrollment, summer programming, a new community nursing clinic, and changes in leadership of the schools.

Rutgers University–Camden is a vibrant hub for providing and attracting notable speakers who lead the national dialogue about many of the major issues we confront today. Featured speakers this past spring included Tarana Burke, recognized as the founder of the #MeToo movement, Sarah McBride, a national transgender rights activist, and Hester Peirce, commissioner of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. At the Rutgers Law School commencement in Camden, Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees were awarded to Kenneth C. Frazier, chief executive officer and board chair of Merck & Co., and Neal Katyal, former Acting U.S. Solicitor General. In addition to these compelling Honorary Degree recipients, impressive keynote speakers were featured at every Rutgers University–Camden commencement event: Dr. Patrick Harter, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (College of Arts and Sciences); Mr. Frank Giordano, president and CEO of the Philly POPS, interim executive director of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, and Rutgers School of Business–Camden alumnus (School of Business); Dr. Wendy Osefo, assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University, nationally known political commentator, and Rutgers University–Camden Graduate School alumna (Graduate School), and Dr. Ernest Grant, president of the American Nurses Association (School of Nursing).

A new record of over 7,400 students are enrolled for fall at Rutgers University–Camden. This represents overall enrollment growth for the fifth consecutive year. Gains have also been made in undergraduate retention, which is up ten percent over last year, due to increased focus on student support initiatives. On-campus housing is at capacity. Assurance of sustained growth is needed prior to deciding to build a new dormitory. Although continued growth is important, it is also important to maintain Rutgers University–Camden's commitment as a small nurturing place dedicated to student success.

Summer provides an opportunity to host hundreds of school children on campus for mentoring, education, and performances through a variety of programs, including Rutgers University–Camden Center for the Arts and the Office of Civic Engagement's Ignite and Rutgers Future Scholars programs. The campus will also host the Symphony in C Youth Orchestra. These activities provide vibrancy, intellectual growth, and opportunities for school children to envision themselves as future college students.

A new aspect of civic engagement and experiential learning was launched through the student-driven creation of a health clinic in the Centerville section of Camden. The Michaels Organization generously donated the space. Faculty and students will provide free health screenings and nutrition and other health programming to the community.

Three of the schools at Rutgers University–Camden have new leadership. In January, Dr. Howard Marchitello became dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences–Camden, and Prof. Kimberly Mutcherson became co-dean of Rutgers Law School. With Dean Jaishankar Ganesh returning to the faculty of the School of Business–Camden on July 1, Dr. Sungsoo Kim, professor of accounting, will serve as interim dean while a permanent dean is sought through a national search.

Rutgers University–Camden continues to succeed in securing significant grant funding for the campus and region. Chancellor Haddon highlighted several recent grants. Camden has been designated one of only five Bloomberg Philanthropies 2018 Public Art Challenge winners. Rutgers University–Camden Center for the Arts will take a leadership role in using the \$1 million grant to convert illegal dumping sites in Camden to public art displays. The School of Nursing–Camden received \$1.5 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to recruit military veterans to prepare them for careers in nursing. Dr. Kwangwon Lee, associate professor of biology, received a grant from the National Institutes of Health to prepare students from underrepresented populations for success in academic programs leading to careers in the biosciences.

Chancellor Haddon concluded her presentation by answering questions from board members.

UPDATE ON THE JOINT HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS

Ms. Dana Redd, CEO of the Rowan University/Rutgers–Camden Board of Governors, provided an update on the Joint Health Sciences Campus.

The Joint Health Sciences Center, located across MLK Boulevard from Rutgers University–Camden’s Nursing and Science Building, is almost complete, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony expected in early fall. The facility is a first-of-its-kind in New Jersey, where multiple universities and institutions will share one space. The project will leverage existing medical, education, and research assets in Camden to develop a significant hub for research innovation in biosciences in southern New Jersey. The building includes space for research, instruction, computation and simulation labs, and amenities, such as a first-floor café, roof-top terrace, and multi-media expandable conference rooms. Rutgers University–Camden, Rowan University, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, Camden County College, and the Joint Board will all have a presence in the building.

Ms. Redd congratulated Chancellor Haddon on completion of her first five years as chancellor of Rutgers University–Camden and extended an invitation to board members for a tour of the Joint Health Sciences Center.

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

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS REPORT

Dr. Dougherty called on Dr. Jason Rivera, vice chancellor for student academic success at Rutgers University–Camden, to report on student academic success initiatives. The Student Academic Success division is comprised of eight units (Learning Center, EOF, TriO, Disability Services, Leadership Institute, Experiential Learning, Success Coaches, Assessment & Retention, and Raptor Connect (data analytics)). The division also liaises with off-campus programs and engages in collaborative leadership with campus partners (e.g. deans, associate deans, vice chancellors, faculty, students), providing an intersection between academic affairs and student affairs.

The Division of Student Academic Success takes a personalized approach to students and their development, providing a variety of supports (e.g. workshops, speakers, advising, coaching sessions, etc.) to empower students to identify and achieve their academic, personal, and professional goals on their path toward graduation and beyond. The division seeks to promote retention and develop a culture of persistence. Dr. Rivera indicated that he and his team focus on retention through targeted initiatives. While many initiatives focus on specific populations (e.g. students who request to withdraw from the university, those who receive Bridging the Gap financial aid, or those who are African American or Hispanic males), Raptor Connect focuses on all students. Raptor Connect is a predictive analytic tool that provides real-time course performance data, enabling faculty and staff to predict at risk students, leverage targeted supports for these students, and communicate easily with them. Data gathered from the system is used in a variety of ways to help administrators, faculty, and staff to better understand the needs of students and to drive data-informed decisions. The division uses a variety of forums to educate administrators, faculty, and staff on data interpretation and current research in student academic success.

Dr. Rivera concluded his presentation by answering questions from board members.

SENATOR WALTER RAND INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Chancellor Haddon called on Dr. Darren Spielman, executive director of the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs, to report on the institute. The institute was founded in 2000 as an applied research and policy center in honor of Senator Walter Rand, a New Jersey state senator noted for his legacy of public service to southern New Jersey and his hometown of Camden. Dedicated foremost to southern New Jersey, the institute seeks to be an asset for the region through three major areas of focus: population health, criminal justice and public safety, and community and organizational development. The institute addresses its areas of focus through research, evaluation, and planning; convening and community engagement; and technical assistance and training. Dr. Spielman said the Walter Rand Institute is positioned as “a think and do and tank with boots on the ground in all eight counties in southern New Jersey.” Dr. Spielman provided a sampling of projects and research in the institute’s three primary focus areas to provide an idea of the range and impact of the institute’s work on such issues as juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, homelessness, opioid addiction rehabilitation, the relationship between mental and physical health, and Type II diabetes intervention and prevention.

The Walter Rand Institute is also a repository of data about southern New Jersey. Through the South Jersey Community Data Access Program, the institute maintains data profiles on all eight South Jersey counties along with 199 municipalities in the region with 50,000 residents or more. The database is available on the institute’s website, is used frequently by nonprofits and smaller city agencies for proposals and planning purposes, and is about to undergo an upgrade. Dr. Spielman indicated that providing data about southern New Jersey is an important function of the institute. He said that data may be viewed as an additional responsibility of America’s first land grant university, which was created to support agricultural research and disseminate this information to the public via cooperative extension offices. Dr. Spielman suggests that “data is the new agriculture,” and the institute envisions becoming a data extension office for southern New Jersey. Currently, the institute is working on creating a data dashboard of communities in Camden, including housing cost, housing use, safety, and education, among other parameters. Some of the groups who will find this information useful include residents of Camden, people interested in moving to Camden, and investors.

Dr. Spielman concluded his presentation 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. Mr. Samuel Adepoju indicated that as president of the Student Government Association at Rutgers University–Camden and undergraduate representative to the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors, he hears frequently from students that the campus does not have enough traditions. In 2019, Rutgers University–New Brunswick’s Paul Robeson Cultural Center celebrated the twenty-seventh anniversary of the Rites of Passage Ceremony, a pre-commencement celebration that honors the resolute persistence of Black and Latinx-identified students in their completion of undergraduate and graduate degrees. Mr. Adepoju would like to see Rutgers University–Camden adopt the Rites of Passage ceremony in 2020, a particularly meaningful year as the centennial of Paul Robeson’s graduation from Rutgers University. He sees this as one of many potential events to impart a sense of tradition by highlighting the rich history and culture of Rutgers University–Camden. Mr. Adepoju asked the board for their support, guidance, and direction in this endeavor.

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 3:07 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by,

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