

CAMDEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
June 14, 2016

A meeting of the Camden Board of Directors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey was held on Monday, June 14, 2016 at 9 a.m. in the Rutgers–Camden Campus Center, Camden, New Jersey. Mr. Robert Mortensen, Chair, presided.

Present and constituting a quorum were Fong (via conference call), Mortensen, Rears, Redd, Rivers, and Stewart.

Attending for the university administration were Gaines, Palis, Rambert, and Robinson.

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

Mr. Mortensen called on Ms. Michele Robinson, substituting as secretary of the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors in Ms. Jones’ absence, who announced that pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231 (Open Public Meetings Act), public notice of this meeting was filed on June 8, 2016 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 Camden Board of Directors website.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Ms. Robinson 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 APRIL 5, 2016 MEETING

Mr. Mortensen called attention to the minutes of the April 5, 2016 meeting that were distributed to the Board and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Receiving no objections, Mr. Mortensen called for a motion, which was seconded, and asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, the minutes were approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF RESOURCE GUIDE

Mr. Mortensen called upon Anthony DePetris, former member of the Rutgers University Board of Trustees and former vice-chair of the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors, to make a presentation on a resource guide he developed during his fellowship with Lead New Jersey. Entitled *Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors Resource Guide*, the document contains information compiled from the Rutgers governing Boards, the Rowan University/Rutgers–Camden Board of Governors, and the City of Camden. Mr. DePetris indicated that his goal in creating the guide was to “assist new Board members to gain key insights quickly.” Mr. DePetris concluded his presentation by answering questions from the Board.

The Board thanked Mr. DePetris for taking the initiative to create a useful resource. Mr. Rambert indicated that the guide is to be considered an informal document for the use of new and current Board members as a reference guide. As such, it could be brought before the Board, subject to a more thorough legal review, for preliminary approval. On this basis, Mr. Mortensen called for a motion, which was seconded, and asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, the *Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors Resource Guide* was approved unanimously by the Board.

PRESENTATION ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

Mr. Mortensen called on Larry Gaines, senior vice chancellor for administration and finance, to make a presentation on capital projects at Rutgers University–Camden.

Mr. Gaines provided updates on a number of capital projects at Rutgers University–Camden. Construction of the Nursing and Science Building is well underway; occupancy is expected in fall 2017. The 100,000-square-foot building will contain administrative offices, nursing-specific and general classrooms, physiology and biology laboratories, and a physics research laser laboratory. Occupancy of the Alumni House is expected in fall 2016. The building includes administrative and programming space for both Alumni Relations and Development. A currently vacant space at 330 Cooper Street is being converted into a welcome center for prospective students; completion is expected in January 2017. The Office of Civic Engagement will consolidate its offices, currently spread throughout the campus, at 67 Penn Street. Occupancy is expected at the end of the summer. Finally, the Joint Health Sciences Center is also moving forward.

Mr. Gaines concluded his presentation by answering questions from the Board.

UPDATE ON DIVERSITY

Mr. Mortensen called on Michael Palis, provost, and Mary Beth Daisey, vice chancellor for student affairs, to provide an update on diversity at Rutgers University–Camden.

Dr. Palis began his presentation by reviewing aggregate diversity metrics for underrepresented minorities among students, faculty, and staff across Rutgers University’s campuses and in comparison to peer and aspirant institutions (oirap.rutgers.edu). He drilled down further for full-time faculty, and presented data on race and ethnicity as well as gender. Dr. Palis indicated that increasing diversity among faculty, staff, and students is a strategic priority for Rutgers University.

Dr. Palis focused the remainder of his presentation on strategies used to recruit, retain, and promote diverse full-time faculty members at Rutgers University–Camden. Playing significant roles in these efforts are the President’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Chancellor’s Office, and the Committee on Institutional Equity and Diversity (CIED) at Rutgers University–Camden. Funding from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Chancellor’s Office has enabled the deans at Rutgers University–Camden to more competitively recruit diverse faculty members and support them with start-up funds for research and professional development. Playing a significant role in working to retain diverse faculty members, the CIED creates a social network for diverse faculty members and ensures they have the resources needed for professional advancement.

Ms. Daisey focused her presentation on diversity among Rutgers University–Camden’s student body. In addition to race and ethnicity, Ms. Daisy provided a more comprehensive snapshot of who our students are by including additional diversity metrics (e.g. age, socioeconomic status, first-year versus transfer, residency, on-campus versus off-campus programs, etc.). She also discussed the concerted effort made to promote diversity awareness through the sponsorship of numerous organizations and events and to serve and support students of diverse backgrounds through a host of offices on campus (e.g. Veterans Services, Office for Students with Disabilities, EOF, TRiO Student Support Services, etc.).

Dr. Palis and Ms. Daisey concluded their presentation by answering questions from the Board.

MEDIA UPDATE

Mr. Mortensen called on Michael Sepanic, associate chancellor for external relations to provide an update on media at Rutgers University–Camden.

Rutgers University–Camden has a strong presence in regional media outlets in southern New Jersey. Having made a presentation at an earlier Board meeting on marketing, advertising, and visibility, Mr. Sepanic focused his current presentation on earned media. Also known as public/media relations, Mr. Sepanic indicated that although Rutgers University–Camden is covered well locally in print and on television, national coverage could be more robust. Mr. Sepanic’s office is currently working through a formalized bid process to engage a national organization to help foster growth and opportunity in this area. The initiative will have two foci. First, the initiative will build upon national coverage already garnered by the world-class faculty at Rutgers University–Camden. To name a few, faculty members such as Michael Carrier, Kelly Dittmar, Jay Feinman, Richard Harris, and Charlotte Markey receive regular coverage in prestigious national media outlets. Second, the initiative will seek to define Rutgers University–Camden’s leadership in areas such as engaged civic learning and college access and affordability through the Bridging the Gap program. In order “to start more effectively reaching out across the country to get our story told,” Mr. Sepanic expects to have completed the bid process and be working with a national organization in August.

Mr. Sepanic concluded his presentation by answering questions from the Board and by taking the opportunity to introduce Kathleen “Kate” Brennan, acting associate chancellor for development at Rutgers University–Camden. An alumna of Rutgers University–Camden with an established track record for fundraising, Ms. Brennan was appointed to the position after Drew Kaiden’s promotion to associate vice president for the Rutgers University Foundation.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Mortensen directed the Board’s attention to old business. There was no further old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Mortensen directed the Board’s attention to new business.

Dr. Sara Joslin, a member of the public, brought the Board’s attention to the Camden City FEMA Hazards Assessment Plan that would be open for public comment later in the evening.

Mr. Mortensen announced that his and George Rears’ terms on the Rutgers University Board of Trustees and the Rutgers–Camden Board of Directors expire on June 30, 2016. He and Mr. Rears indicated it had been an honor and privilege to be part of the Rutgers University–Camden community. On behalf of the faculty, staff, and administration, Dr. Palis thanked Mr. Mortensen and Mr. Rears for their service and longstanding championship of Rutgers University.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mortensen asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by,

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