

Resolution on Remediating University Policy Violations Related to the Proposed Medical School Merger

WHEREAS: Rutgers University Policy Section 50.2.2 states that among other powers given to it, the Rutgers University Senate shall “regulate formal relationships among academic units within the University”; and

WHEREAS: the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the New Jersey Medical School are recognized academic units within Rutgers University; and

WHEREAS: on July 10, 2023, the Rutgers University Board of Governors voted to support a resolution proposed by Chancellor Dr. Brian Strom to merge the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School with the New Jersey Medical School in the absence of any approval, formal or informal, from the University Senate; and

WHEREAS: the Rutgers University President, Dr. Jonathan Holloway, was informed via the July 7, 2023 University Senate Resolution on Postponing the Board of Governors’ Vote on the Medical Schools Merger that this vote would be a violation of Rutgers University policy as written and as manifested in recent practices vis-a-vis the mergers of Law School and Nursing School units across campuses; and

WHEREAS: The Rutgers University Senate issued a report on charge S-2303 Review Proposal for Merger of the Medical Schools on April 28, 2023 concerning this merger and the Senate did not receive a response from the President prior to the meeting on July 10, as required by 50.2.2; and

WHEREAS: President Holloway took no public action to prevent or postpone the Board of Governors vote on the medical school merger; and

WHEREAS: The Rutgers University Senate represents faculty, students, staff, and alumni, and is charged with ensuring the best interests of the University.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Rutgers University Senate hereby asserts that it has lost confidence in the leadership of President Holloway representing the values of shared governance and calls for the following actions, including but not limited to:

1. An announcement from President Holloway stating that the medical school merger shall be paused until such time that the University Senate has had the opportunity to review Chancellor Strom’s full proposal and issue a decision regarding whether it should proceed.
2. A public re-commitment by President Holloway to the principles and values of shared governance by upholding 50.2.2.