

RESOLUTION TO RE-INSTATE A STANDING COMMITTEE ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Whereas Rutgers The State University of New Jersey, as a member of the BIG TEN Academic Alliance; and whereas 12 of the current 14-member institutions have standing committees on Diversity, Inclusion, Equity; or similar designations;

And whereas the four institutions that are joining the BIG TEN in 2024 (University of California Los Angeles/UCLA; University of Southern California/USC; University of Washington; and University of Oregon; all have such standing committees on DEI;

And whereas, Rutgers The State University of New Jersey is only one of two of the current 14 (and 2024 18) BIG TEN member institutions that does not currently have a full standing DEI committee of the University Senate;

And whereas Rutgers in the past decades had a standing DEI Committee, but disbanded it, and decentralized the DEI functions;

And whereas the landscape related to DEI in the United States, In New Jersey, and within the Rutgers University community, is ever evolving;

And whereas there is a fundamental imperative to have a committee, diversely representative of the university community, to have a keen focus, commitment, and understanding of the opportunities and challenges impacting Rutgers University –to fully advance each of the Rutgers core philosophical pillars—which include Equity & Diversity;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Rutgers University Senate, during the first meeting of the Senate for academic year 2023-2024, deliberate to re-instate a full standing committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (or a more appropriate alternative title that best describes the charge for this committee).