

**RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
UNIVERSITY SENATE**

MINUTES: Regular Meeting of the University Senate

DATE: November 15, 2024

TIME AND PLACE: 1:10 p.m., Remote via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allen, Anderson, Andrews, Ardeshtna, Askew, Bachmann, Baker, Barbarello, Andrews, Begum, Bernard, Bhuyan, Boikess, Boppey, Borisovets, Boucher, Boxer, Bridgeman, Brown, Cahill, Caponegro, Chao, Chiricolo, Choron, Clarke, Collick, Cooper, Curchitser, Dai, Dane, Davis, DeMatteo, Diaz-Tena, Easley, Eastman, Ebert, Everett, Everts, Fatahzadeh, Fedorko, Fenker, Figueira, Firat, Foster, Gilmartin, Gnanaprakasam, Godoy, Gong, Gower, Grachan, Graham, Granadeiro, Green-Mercado, Griffin, Guo, Gurbuzbalaban, Gursoy, Haberl, Haley, Haviland, Hewitt, Hoffman, Izhar, Jaber, Jordan-McKinney, Kamen, Kayyal, Kettle, R. Khan, S. Khan, Kiss, Knievel, Kustka, Ladell, Lam, Lee, Lobman, Lutz, Maeng Brown, Maerhofer, Mahajan-Cusack, Maliga, Markowitz, Mazurek, McCarthy, McKeever, Morales, C. Morton, P. Morton, Murphy, O'Connor, Özel, Osorio-Fernandez, Parsa, S. Patel, Pichugin, Pierce, Pintar, Pontes, Purcell, Quincy, Rabinowitz, Ramachandran, Ramirez Polo, Reshamdalal, Robles, Rossman-Murphy, Roth, Salas-de la Cruz, Saltzman, Sarath, Schafer, Schwartz, Searcy, Senger, Sergel, Shah, Shapiro, Shinbrot, Simonds, Sloan-Power, Smith, Sonnenberg, Sow, Spiegel, Strom, Suh, Syed, Szatrowski, Taha, Takhistov, Tewfik, Tirino, Torres, Truschke, Usman, Volino, Wagner, Weiss, Wirtenberg, Wolfe, Zarouni, Zhou, Zwick

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Abdelfattah, Alkhalili, Apel, Axelsson, Carney-Waterton, Esposito, Keates, Mattis, Nadeem, Oberle, Olivera, Risman, Rodriguez, Rokerya, Shaw, Smart, White, Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Adamo, Adya, F. Ahmed, B. Ahmed, Ameri, Amjad, K. Anderson, J. Anderson Eloy, Anner, Barone, Bond, Borie-Holtz, Cafiero, Chama, Conway, Cuitiño, DiGiovanni, Dock, Dylewska, Elkholy, Feldman, Feng, Fulton, Geary, Giermanski, Giraud, Graham, Halkitis, Hamawy, Hart, Henderson, Henry, Holloway, Javanmard, Jeyaprakash, John, Johnson, Kaplan, Kaye, Lawson, Lehman, Lei, Leibowitz, Lemish, Lescht, Maganti, Mao, Matisse, Mbadugha, McCarthy, Moghe, Murtha, Nickitas, Nucci, K. Patel, A. Patel, V. Patel, P. Patel, Perez, Ramchandani, Rentzel, Robinson, Robson, Ruocco, Santos Mendoza, Savage, Sayde, Schroth, Shapiro, Shobut, Silva, Muriel Soler, Span, Starkweather, Tillis, Wade, Yang, Yusuf, Zhang

CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM, AND CHAIR'S REPORT – Lucille Foster, Chair

Chair Foster called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. She announced that Jon Oliver will serve as Senate Parliamentarian for the November and December Senate meetings.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Vicki Hewitt, Executive Secretary

- **Agenda:** The meeting agenda was approved.
- **Minutes:** The [minutes of the Oct. 18, 2024 Senate meeting](#) were approved as distributed by the Executive Secretary.
- **Communications**
 - There is a Provosts' Roundtable scheduled for: Fri. Jan. 31 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
 - Senators are reminded to log in to the Senate website for attendance and voting access.

RBHS CHANCELLOR REPORT – Brian Strom, Chancellor, Rutgers-RBHS

RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL ELECTION FOR PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

The University Senate voted to choose two potential candidates for a Senate representative to the Presidential Search Committee. Of those two, the Presidential Search Committee will select the final Senate representative. The two candidates selected were:

- Lucille Foster, Newark Staff
- Heather Pierce, Lecturer-New Brunswick, Faculty

COMMITTEE REPORTS/RESOLUTIONS: The report will be presented/summarized by the committee chair, then will be discussed, and acted upon by the Senate. Substantive amendments to these reports should be given to the Senate secretary in writing prior to or at the time the amendment is moved.

Budget and Finance Committee

Thomas Figueira and Troy Shinbrot, Co-Chairs

[Report on S-2208-1: Divestment of Retirement Funds from Fossil Fuels](#) (Information Only)

The committee was charged as follows:

Investigate whether the investment companies utilized by Rutgers for university employees should divest from fossil fuel companies within their retirement portfolios that are known to contribute to climate change. Report back to the Senate Executive Committee.

Senator Figueira presented this information-only report to the Senate.

OLD BUSINESS

Ad Hoc Committee on Review of the University Senate's Governance Documents and Formulation of University Senate Bylaws and University Structure and Governance Committee

- Draft [Article I](#)
- Draft [Article II](#) – updated (Information Only)

The committee was charged as follows:

Review the existing governance documents of the University Senate, including University policies, past Senate reports, and the Senate Handbook. Develop Bylaws for the University Senate consistent with Robert's Rules of Order.

Chair Foster presented the draft of Article I to the Senate. The draft was amended as follows:

- In Article I.C.a., “Faculty member is defined as” was amended to “Faculty member, for the purposes of determining unit Senate entitlements through elections, is defined as.”
- In Article I.K.b.iii, “When a senator has been absent without excuse for more than two Senate meetings” was amended to “When a senator has been absent without excuse for more than two Senate meetings per academic year.”
- In Article I.K.b.iv, “When a senator has been absent without excuse for more than three Senate meetings” was amended to “When a senator has been absent without excuse for more than three Senate meetings per academic year.”

The amended Article I of the Senate Bylaws was adopted.

Chair Foster presented the draft of Article II to the Senate. This will be brought back to the Senate for a vote at the December Senate meeting.

NEW BUSINESS**

The topic of chat settings during Senate meetings will be added to the December Executive Committee agenda.

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Foster reported on the [Nov. 1, 2024 Senate Executive Committee meeting](#).

REPORTS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES TO BOARDS OF GOVERNORS AND TRUSTEES

Senator Pierce reported on the Board of Governors meeting. Senator Purcell reported the Board of Trustees had not met.

REPORTS OF CAMPUS FACULTY AND STUDENT LIAISONS

Senator Haley reported on behalf of New Brunswick Faculty. Senator Salas-de la Cruz reported on behalf of Camden Faculty.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Vicki Hewitt, Executive Secretary of the University Senate