



A Resolution Condemning Administrative Response to the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) Meeting on December 5, 2024

WHEREAS, The Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) serves as the official governing body for the undergraduate student population at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. One of its main roles on campus is to provide a forum for the open expression of student ideas and concerns;¹

WHEREAS, elected student representatives and members of the general public are scheduled to convene for RUSA meetings and legislative sessions every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Activities Center (SAC) on the College Ave Campus. Their final legislative session and meeting of the semester was scheduled for December 5, 2024;

WHEREAS, per RUSA’s governing documents, all proposed legislation and agenda items for Thursday meetings must be presented, sponsored, approved, or tabled by the RUSA Executive Board beforehand. The agenda must also be made available to the public via the #general Slack channel at least 24 hours in advance of thursday meetings;²

WHEREAS, legislation not approved or sponsored by the RUSA Executive Board can still be added to an agenda through a motion to amend the agenda at the time of a scheduled meeting;

WHEREAS, since November 29th, a resolution to include anti-Zionism in RUSA’s previously adopted definition of anti-Semitism, based on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition, has been discussed in committee channels via Slack. The resolution was planned to be presented on December 5th as an amendment to the agenda;³

WHEREAS, On December 5th, approximately an hour before the scheduled meeting, members of the RUSA Executive Board were informed that the administration had prohibited them from gaveling into their final legislative session. This decision, which contradicted the powers granted to the Executive Board by their governing documents, and hindered their self-governance, was attributed to public safety and logistical/capacity concerns at the Student Activities Center, potentially stemming from mobilization efforts made by non-Rutgers-affiliated organizations;⁴

¹ [Official website of the Rutgers University Student Assembly \(RUSA\)](#)

² [Rutgers University Student Assembly \(RUSA\) Governing Documents](#)

³ [RUSA Resolution to Counteract Antisemitism, Anti-Zionism, and Anti-Israeli Racism \(Proposed\)](#)

⁴ [Anti-Zionist Minyan \(AZM\) and the Students for Justice in Palestine at New Brunswick \(SJP\) Instagram Post](#)

WHEREAS, despite objections and alternatives being presented from the organization’s president and other executive board members, law enforcement arrived, locked, and monitored the doors of the Student Activities Center, granting access only to elected RUSA members and with members of the public who were already inside being asked to leave;

WHEREAS, RUSA later released a statement via their Instagram page informing the student body of the events that transpired,⁵ with the student-led newspaper at Rutgers-New Brunswick also publishing an article detailing the events that occurred a few days after the meeting;⁶

WHEREAS, to investigate the administration’s decision-making process for canceling the meeting, the RUSA’s President issued an executive order forming an ad-hoc committee in order to determine the best course of action moving forward from this incident;⁷

WHEREAS, the student body at Rutgers-New Brunswick has shared disappointment and frustration toward higher administration for this interference in self-governance and their failure to properly and efficiently communicate their concerns about holding the meeting in the provided space;

WHEREAS, President Holloway has previously expressed “respect [for] RUSA’s ability to self-govern”, stated that he “trust Rutgers students to engage in responsible civic practices,” and affirmed that he “believe[s] in engagement, not isolation”. However, despite these comments, elected student representatives, as well as members of the public, were barred from discussing and engaging with any of the potentially proposed legislation;⁸

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, the Rutgers University Senate condemns higher administration for their interference in student self-governance and stalling discourse about issues that are of importance to the student body;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Rutgers University Senate demands that New Brunswick Leadership release a campus-wide statement detailing and addressing the occurrence of December 5th, and the concerns expressed as a result;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Rutgers University Senate affirms its support for freedom of speech and expression for students and is in complete solidarity with RUSA’s decision to implement an ad-hoc committee in order to hold administration accountable for their actions;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the University Senate will continue to uplift student speech and expression despite the actions taken by administrators on December 5, 2024 and ask that when

⁵[RUSA Statement on the December 5th event](#)

⁶[Targum Article: U. cancels RUSA meeting set to discuss anti-Israeli discrimination proposal, prompting investigation](#)

⁷[Executive Order for Formation of an Ad-Hoc Committee to Investigate the December 5th RUSA General Body Meeting](#)

⁸[President Holloway’s Statement Regarding the 2024 RUSA Referenda](#)

administrators attempt to ensure student safety, they do so without hindering or prohibiting student speech and expression.