

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY SENATE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING AGENDA  
Friday, March 6, 2026, 12:00 p.m. via Zoom**

<https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/94889787661?pwd=RhbbQqaFheHOsF8PaWko1waTeTFKGY.1>

**Chair's Report**– Lucille Foster, Senate Chair

**Secretary's Report**– Taryn Cooper, Executive Secretary

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of the [February 6, 2026 Senate Executive Committee Minutes](#)
- Communications
  - Senate Social postponed to Friday May 1, 2026 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. due to weather.
  - Staff and Lecturer elections will be starting in the upcoming weeks. Communications will be coming from Vivian Fernandez.
  - [Call for Nominations for 2026-2027 Senate Elections](#) – due Fri. April 17.
  - [President Tate's letter to the University Senate.](#)
  - Executive Secretary is away March 13-23; Morgan Smith is point of contact.
  - Senate call for faculty nominations for the [University Librarian Evaluation Committee.](#)

**[Survey Report: Rutgers University's Image in New Jersey Presentation](#)**- William F. Tate IV, President (12:05 – 12: 30 p.m.)

**Discussion**- Chancellor Tonya Smith-Jackson, Rutgers Newark (12:30 – 1:00 p.m.)

**[Senate Budget Update](#)** (1:00 – 1:10 p.m.)

**[Election Committee Members](#)** (1:10 – 1:15 p.m.)

**Rutgers School of Medicine Merger Senate Entitlements** (1:15 – 1:25 p.m.)

**RBS Candidate Nominations** (1:25 – 1:35 p.m.)

**NJ-MADC Representatives: Election of two Senators by full Senate** (1:35 – 1:40 p.m.)

**[Resolution on Preserving Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) Infrastructure at Rutgers](#)**- Jon Oliver (1:40 – 1:50 p.m.)

**[President Tate's Letter to the Senate](#)** (1:50 – 2:05 p.m.)

## **Review Pending Committee Charges and Deadlines (2:05 – 2:20 p.m.)**

### **Standing Committees/Panels**

#### **Committee Report and Recommendations (2:20 – 2:30 p.m.)**

**Research and Graduate & Professional Education Committee-** Monica Mazurek, Enrique Curchitser (co-chairs)

#### **S-2331: Research Trainee Compensation and Benefits Inequity**

RGPEC was charged as follows:

*Investigate current practices in postdoc and current doctoral student remuneration, in particular as it relates to inequality following fellowship funding and to develop solutions to reward talent.*

#### **Proposed Charge (2:30 – 2:40 p.m.)**

**University Vendor Evaluations and Guidelines-** Senator Brian Everett, Staff-Camden

**Charge:** Examine various external vendors currently under contract with Rutgers for software, information technology, office supplies, food, construction, etc., and make recommendations on vendor standards, community guidelines, and opportunities for in-house solutions.

**Rationale:** Information technology, food services, construction firms, and office supply vendors are all regular business partners of universities throughout the BIG10, among other sectors. As market demands, community needs, and business trends evolve rapidly, it is important to evaluate current partners and practices from a shared governance perspective, and perhaps make recommendations for home-grown solutions for the purposes of security, ethics, and cost savings.

#### **Proposed Charge (2:40 – 2:50 p.m.)**

**Local Knowledge Access-** Senator Brian Everett, Staff-Camden

**Charge:** For ASRAC and/or ICA committees: Examine the university's relationship(s) with local news and journalism outlets. Consider how to bolster access to geographically relevant outlets for students, faculty, and staff.

**Rationale:** Through the Rutgers University library system, all members of the university community are able to access some media/journalism outlets, such as

the Wall Street Journal, via CAS login. That ability is not possible, though, for geographically relevant outlets throughout New Jersey. Our state has recently observed the cessation of several media/journalistic outlets in the past calendar year, and other national and international outlets have initiated mass layoffs and firings resulting in less access to local knowledge, and at times, academically necessary information.

**Proposed Charge (2:50 – 3:00 p.m.)**

**Review of Processes, Priorities, and Accountability within the Offices of Technology Transfer, Research Contract Services, and New Ventures-** Senator Arash Hatefi, Faculty- RBHS

**Charge:** The Rutgers Office for Research (OFR) plays a central role in supporting the University's research mission through technology commercialization, sponsored research administration, and innovation and entrepreneurship. • These functions are carried out primarily through the Offices of Technology Transfer (OTT), Research Contract Services (RCS), and New Ventures (NV). • Faculty investigators have raised concerns regarding excessive delays, lack of transparency, unclear policies, and limited accountability within these offices (i.e., OTT, RCS, and NV). We would like the Research and Graduate & Professional Education Committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the policies, procedures, priorities, and accountability mechanisms with particular attention to the Offices of Technology Transfer, Research Contract Services, and New Ventures. Scope of the Charge I. Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) The Committee shall examine and report on: 1. Licensing Priority and Timeliness - Whether licensing of Rutgers-developed technologies to external entities remains a stated and operational priority. - Typical timelines for licensing negotiations and the extent to which delays may jeopardize potential transactions. 2. Return of Intellectual Property Rights o Policies and procedures governing the return of IP rights to inventors when Rutgers elects not to pursue licensing or commercialization. o Expected timeframes for such determinations following submission of a Notice of Invention. 3. Responsiveness and Communication Standards o Expectations for response times by licensing managers to inquiries from inventors and external partners. o Potential impacts of delayed communications on research and commercialization opportunities. 4. Transparency of Licensing Agreements o Policies regarding inventor and School/Department access to executed licensing agreements. o The rationale for any limitations on access to such agreements. 5. Ownership and Assignment of Intellectual Property o Clarification of circumstances under which IP rights automatically vest in Rutgers versus those in which inventors retain rights. o The purpose and legal necessity of assignment language required at the time of invention disclosure. 6. Commercialization Support Decisions o Whether Rutgers may retain IP rights while electing not to support commercialization. o Policies or safeguards intended to prevent prolonged stagnation of potentially valuable

technologies. 7. Workload and Capacity Assessment o Evaluation of staffing levels, workload distribution, and long-term impacts on research productivity and commercialization. II. Research Contract Services (RCS) The Committee shall examine and report on: 1. Turnaround Time for Agreements and Contracts - Reasonable timeframes for drafting and reviewing MTAs and research contracts. - Mechanisms for prioritizing time-sensitive or at-risk agreements. 2. Institutional Impact of Delays o Recognition of the potential loss of research funding, revenue, and personnel resulting from prolonged contract delays. 3. Responsiveness and Escalation Mechanisms o Procedures for addressing unresponsiveness by contract managers. o Availability of escalation pathways for time-sensitive matters. 4. Use of External Legal Resources o Feasibility of engaging pre-approved external legal counsel (including AI softwares) to assist with drafting or reviewing research-related agreements. o Alignment of such practices with University policies and risk management considerations. 5. Workload and Capacity Assessment o Evaluation of staffing levels, workload distribution, and long-term impacts on research productivity and commercialization. III. Office of New Ventures The Committee shall examine and report on: 1. Startup Formation and Licensing Decisions - The role of Principal Investigators in decisions regarding startup formation versus licensing to third parties. - Whether current practices may discourage faculty entrepreneurship or innovation. IV. Cross-Cutting Issues within the Office for Research The Committee shall examine and report on: 1. Performance Feedback and Accountability - Whether Principal Investigators have a formal mechanism to provide feedback on interactions with OFR personnel. - The structure, independence, and inclusivity of any existing evaluation processes. - The feasibility of implementing a transparent and constructive feedback system.

**Rationale:** Such concerns, if substantiated, may negatively affect research productivity, research personnel, intellectual properties, external partnerships, commercialization outcomes, and the University's financial and reputational interests.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Adjournment**