

**University Senate Administrative Report**  
**Administrative Report**  
**March 28, 2025**

Dear Members of the University Senate,

I am providing a written report as I am unable to attend this week's University Senate meeting. Please know that some of the information included within this report may be outdated by the time the University Senate meeting takes place.

**Middle States Commission on Higher Education and Reaccreditation**

As a reminder, we will be hosting our Middle States VP Liaison, Dr. Tiffany Lee, on Monday, March 31. Dr. Lee will present an overview of the reaccreditation process from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We encourage all Senators to [register to attend the virtual presentation](https://academicaffairs.rutgers.edu/msche-middle-states-accreditation) at:  
<https://academicaffairs.rutgers.edu/msche-middle-states-accreditation>.

**Truman Scholarship Finalist**

Again, this year one of our students is a finalist for the Truman Scholarship. I hope we'll have very positive news to report sometime next month, but already it's a point of pride to have a finalist.

**Admissions**

It's still early in terms of commitments by admitted students, but the news is encouraging so far: applications are up by 14% over this point last year, with growth on all campuses.

- Nearly 95,000 students have applied this year.
- A lot of the growth is in out-of-state applications, up 25%.
- We're early in the process of accepting offers of admissions (May 1 is the deadline), but New Brunswick is close to last year's pace and Newark and Camden are running ahead of it.

## **State Budget**

Late last month, Governor Murphy presented his final state budget proposal, and because of declining revenues, the outlook for higher education in the budget is not favorable.

The Governor's budget proposes more than \$60m in cuts to university operating aid and line-item support. This includes significant cuts to fundings for the Garden State Guarantee program and the Summer Tuition Assistance Grants.

Senior Vice President Francine Newsome Pfeiffer and her team are engaged in advocating to restore as many cuts as possible to limit the damage.

## **RU Online Conference**

Two weeks ago, Rutgers University Online Education Services hosted the 16th Annual Rutgers Online Learning Conference, which focused on the evolving online and hybrid education field. It provided a space for educators, administrators, and students to discuss and share insights on the latest trends and innovations in digital pedagogy, including the use of AI technologies in teaching and learning.

The conference has gained recognition for its success and impact. It featured 34 live, online presentations and 26 on-demand, prerecorded presentations, all reflecting modern trends in online pedagogy. Of the 1,037 who registered, nearly 750 individuals attended the conference, representing 11 institutions, including Virginia Tech and Indiana Tech, as well as Rutgers, which comprised 55% of attendees. Additionally, there were 24 international attendees from eight countries. High-level participants included deans, associate/assistant deans, vice presidents, department chairs, and directors from various institutions, with significant representation from Rutgers, Georgian Court University, and Virginia Tech.

As a reminder, University Online Education Services is a unit of University Academic Affairs launched in 2024 as a universitywide resource to develop a coordinated and intentional approach to online education that complements what we do on-ground and more effectively meets the needs of current and future students. The institution-spanning services offered through the office align with the needs of our schools and units and support the efforts of our faculty to enhance online learning in their respective areas further.

Learn more about [University Online Education Services](#) and the support it offers for our online educators, courses and programs.

## **Roadmaps Update – Rutgers–Newark to Host Official Launch**

I am pleased to share with you that the Institute for Data, Research and Innovation Science, or IDRIS, in Newark, developed as part of the Roadmaps Strategic Initiative, will host an official launch on April 14 with educational programming in the morning and early evening.

IDRIS aims to use data and technology to interrogate and address difficulties facing urban communities. In its effort to achieve this aim, the institute situates data science, artificial intelligence (AI), and other technologies in an ethical, community-engaged framework that meaningfully accounts for human and urban complexities.

Learn more about IDRIS, and register for the launch event at <https://idris.rutgers.edu/>

## **Federal Landscape**

These are uncertain times. As we continue to monitor announcements about federal actions and hear rumors about other possible actions (such as threatened travel bans), we are trying to keep faculty, staff, and students as informed as possible – even when we don't necessarily have all the answers to their questions and concerns.

### *Regarding DEI:*

- We continue to track executive orders, the Dear Colleague letter from the Department of Education, and the investigations now being launched into several other schools regarding complaints of antisemitism.
- We were one of 60 institutions that received a warning letter from the department's Office of Civil Rights.
- We have also been cited in reports about 45 schools that received complaints related to the PhD Project.
- Our approach to diversity is one focused on inclusion, not exclusion; on fostering opportunity for all; and on compliance with state and federal law.
- We have seen many schools move away from DEI—most recently, Ohio State announced that it was sunseting such programs.
- It is important to understand that so many of these decisions are driven by local pressures. For many, like in Ohio, their states have passed legislation that bans DEI activities. That's not the case in New Jersey.
- To date at Rutgers, we have seen a handful of stop-work orders or requirements to change grant language, which we have responded to individually.

### *On Research/NIH:*

- We continue to monitor the NIH and other funding agencies closely.

- NIH grants account for about half of the federal research funding we receive every year.
- Study sections—a step in the process of approving new grants—have resumed but slowly.
- As you know, the NIH announced plans to cap F&A rates at 15%, which was blocked in the courts.
- The continuing resolution maintains the current rates.

*From the Office of Research:*

Mike Zwick and Mike Gower are meeting regularly with a University Senate subcommittee to discuss the changes in the federal government and how they impact Rutgers' research enterprise.

Through March 19, 2025, the university received 42 notices from the federal government and federal pass-through agencies ranging from attestations to full stop-work orders and terminations. Only three have been full terminations.

As a reminder, the latest information can be found on the [FAQ website](#) related to federal affairs.

## **Research News**

The Office for Research has successfully implemented Google Gemini (AI) to gain greater insights into our sponsored awards and sponsored submissions. These insights will help us to:

- identify how many submissions or awards Rutgers has for specific disciplines,
- discover and support faculty working on inventions much earlier in the research phase, and
- match faculty with requests from corporate and other sponsors seeking research and innovation to solve specific problems.

The office is working on a phase 2 implementation to include Google Gemini in the grant submission review workflow. Other implementation phases are also being planned.

Also of note, Rutgers rose in the National Top 100 Worldwide Patent Ranking, moving up five spots to 68<sup>th</sup> in the world and 43<sup>rd</sup> among U.S. institutions in this year's list. Read more about this impressive accomplishment in [Rutgers Today](#).

## Students

As we near the 2025 Commencement, I encourage you to read about the commendable accomplishments of our graduating students. *Rutgers Today* is highlighting many of these impending graduates from throughout the university in the coming weeks.

I also would like to congratulate the Class of 2025 at New Jersey Medical School and Robert Wood Johnson Medical, which celebrated Match Day on Friday, March 21, a nationwide event during which medical students find out where they will complete their medical training as residents. Both schools each had an impressive match rate of 93%. [Read more](#) about our future physicians and Match Day.

## Alumni

The Rutgers Alumni Association is hosting its Loyal Sons and Daughters Award recognition event on Saturday, April 5. Eight deserving individuals, including President Holloway, are being recognized for their service to and long-standing impact on Rutgers.

Please join me in congratulating the awardees. Learn more about the awardees and the event on the [association's website](#).

## Rutgers Giving Days

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in Rutgers Giving Days and supported programs throughout the university. Every donation significantly impacts our Rutgers community and the university's ability to reach excellence in each of our mission areas, especially for the benefit of our students.

The Rutgers University Foundation received more than 2,487 gifts, totaling more than \$766,826. This year's campaign marked the 10th anniversary of the event and is an excellent example of how our schools and units work collectively to enhance Rutgers' scholarship and innovation.

Sincerely,  
Prabhas V. Moghe, Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Distinguished Professor