

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

**MINUTES:** Regular Meeting of the University Senate

**DATE:** March 28, 2025

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Allen, K. Anderson, C. Anderson, Andrews, Apel, Ardeshtna, Askew, Baker, Barbarello Andrews, Bernard, Bhuyan, Borie-Holtz, Borisovets, Boxer, Brown, Caponegro, Carney-Waterton, Choron, Clarke, Collick, Cooper, Cuitiño, Davis, DeMatteo, Diaz-Tena, Dock, Easley, Ebert, Esposito, Everett, Everts, Fatahzadeh, Fenker, Figueira, Foster, Friedman, Fulton, Giraud, Godoy, Gong, Gould, Gower, Graham, Granadeiro, J. Guo, Gurbuzbalaban, Gursoy, Haley, Haviland, Henry, Hoffman, Horan, Javanmard, Jordan-McKinney, Kaplan, Keates, R. Khan, S. Khan, Kiss, Knievel, Kustka, La Vigne, Ladell, Lam, Lehman, Lescht, Lutz, Maerhofer, Maliga, Markowitz, McKeever, Morales, C. Morton, P. Morton, Murphy, Nadeem, Nucci, O'Connor, Oberle, Oliver, Olivera, Osorio-Fernandez, Özel, Parsa, K. Patel, S. Patel, Pichugin, Pierce, Pintar, Pontes, Purcell, Quincy, Rabinowitz, Ramachandran, Robles, Rokerya, Rossman-Murphy, Roth, Salas-de la Cruz, Saltzman, Santos Mendoza, Schafer, Schroth, Schwartz, Searcy, Senger, Shah, Simonds, Sloan-Power, Sonnenberg, Spiegel, Suh, Szatrowski, Taha, Tewfik, Tirino, Torres, Weiss, White, Wilkinson, Williams, Wirtenberg, Wolfe, Zarouni, Zhou, Zwick

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Bachmann, Cafiero, Dane, Eastman, Grachan, Green-Mercado, Kettle, Maeng Brown, Maganti, Mahajan-Cusack, Mbadugha, Moghe, Murphy, Ramirez Polo, Rodriguez, Shinbrot, Volino

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Abdelfattah, Adamo, Adya, F. Ahmed, B. Ahmed, Alkhalili, Ameri, Amjad, Anderson Eloy, Anner, Axelsson, Bachmann, Barone, Begum, Boikess, Bond, Sai Boppey, Boucher, Bridgeman, Chao, Chiricolo, Conway, Cotter, Curchitser, Dai, DiGiovanni, Dylewska, Elkholy, Fedorko, Feldman, Feng, Firat, Geary, Giermanski, Gilmartin, Gnanaprakasam, Gould, Graham, Griffin, Haberl, Halkitis, Hisham Hamawy, Hart, Henderson, Holloway, Izhar, Jaber, Jeyaprakash, John, Johnson, Kamen, Kaye, Kayyal, Lam, Lawson, Lee, Lei, Leibowitz, Lemish, Lobman, Mao, Matise, Mattis, Mazurek, McCarthy, Moghe, Murtha, Nickitas, A. Patel, V. Patel, P. Patel, Perez, Ramchandani, Rentzel, Reshamdalal, Risman, Robinson, Robson, Rohowsky-Kochan, Sarath, Savage, Sayde, Scott, Sergel, Sese, M. Shapiro, S. Shapiro, Shaw, Shobut, Silva, Smart, Muriel Soler, Sow, Span, Starkweather, Strom, Syed, Takhistov, Tillis, Truschke, Usman, Wade, Wagner, Yang, Yusuf, Y. 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.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT – Vicki Hewitt, Executive Secretary

- **Agenda:** The meeting agenda was approved.
- **Minutes:** The [minutes of the February 21, 2025 Senate meeting](#) were approved as distributed by the Executive Secretary.
- **Communications**
  - The [2025-2026 Senate Calendar](#) is available on the Senate website.
  - EVPAA Moghe was unable to attend the meeting, so he provided a written report: [University Senate Administrative Report, March 28, 2025](#)
  - The deadline for the [Call for Nominations for 2025-2026 Senate Elections](#) is Fri. April 18
  - The Lecturer elections process has begun:
    - Nomination Deadline: Fri. March 28
    - Voting Open: Thu. April 3
    - Results Announced: Mon. April 14
  - A Senate Social will be held on Fri. April 11 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
  - There is a vacancy on the Executive Committee for a Student Representative from Camden.
  - Senators are reminded to log in to the Senate website for attendance and voting access.

## PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH UPDATE – Amy Towers and Alberto Cuitiño, Search Committee Co-Chairs

## FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING FREEZE ADVISORY GROUP UPDATE

**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.

### Committee Report and Recommendations

**Budget and Finance Committee – Thomas Figueira and Troy Shinbrot, Co-Chairs**  
[Trends in Rutgers Budget Priorities and Allocations](#)

Senator Figueira presented this report and recommendations to the Senate. The recommendations were adopted.

## NEW BUSINESS\*\*

A motion to add a resolution to establish a mutual defense compact for the universities of the Big Ten Academic Alliance to the agenda was adopted with unanimous consent.

A motion to add a resolution that Rutgers host the Berkshire Conference on Women's History was lost.

Senator Salas-de la Cruz presented the [Resolution to Establish a Mutual Defense Compact for the Universities of the Big Ten Academic Alliance in Defense of Academic Freedom, Institutional Integrity, and the Research Enterprise](#) to the Senate.

The resolution was amended as follows.

The clause:

"Be it further resolved that, under this compact, all participating institutions shall commit no less than two percent (2%) of their annual endowment spending allocation to a shared or distributed defense fund. This fund shall be used to provide immediate and strategic support to any member institution under direct political or legal infringement;"

was replaced with:

"Be it further resolved that, under this compact, all participating institutions shall commit meaningful funding to a shared or distributed defense fund. This fund shall be used to provide immediate and strategic support to any member institution under direct political or legal infringement;"

The amended resolution was adopted.

## **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 IV](#)

Draft [Article V](#) (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 IV to the Senate.

The draft was amended as follows:

- In Section D, “the chair of the University Senate ex officio, and” was replaced with “one staff senator”;
- In Section D, “one elected student senator” was replaced with “one elected student senator; and”;
- In Section D, “one of the three above shall be filled by the chair of the University Senate ex officio, with the other two seats filled by representatives from the remaining constituencies” was added.

The amended Article IV of the Senate Bylaws was adopted.

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

[\*\*RESOLUTION ON CHAT SETTINGS DURING SENATE MEETINGS\*\*](#) – Submitted by Senator Troy Shinbrot, School of Engineering, Faculty

The motion to adopt this resolution was lost.

#### **SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Vice Chair Esposito reported on the [March 7, 2025 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 Wilkinson reported on behalf of Camden Faculty.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:  
Vicki Hewitt, Executive Secretary of the University Senate