

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 7, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Foster (Chair), Boxer, Davis, Gordy, Haley, Hussain, Pierce, Purcell, Salas-de la Cruz, Schwartz, Scott, Syed

ALSO ATTENDING: *M. Smith (University Senate Administrative Assistant), B. Strom (RBHS Chancellor)*

The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee (EC) was held on Friday, November 7, 2025, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. remotely via Zoom. The time change was due to President Tate's inauguration occurring in the afternoon, at which the Chair would be officiating and several EC members attending.

Chair's Report– Lucille Foster, Senate Chair

Chair Foster called the November 7, 2025, Senate EC meeting to order at 9:02 a. m. A Chair's report was not presented given the time constraints of the meeting thereby enabling as many agenda items as possible to be considered.

Secretary's Report– Morgan Smith, Senate Administrative Assistant

- The November 7, 2025, Executive Committee agenda was amended to include an item proposed by Senator Rob Scott to discuss Senate representation on the anticipated RBHS Chancellor search committee after the Secretary report. The additional item was approved, along with the amended, agenda without objection.
- The [October 3, 2025 Senate Executive Committee Minutes](#) were approved
- Policy Updates
 - [10.3.3 Policy on Special Student Organization Funding](#) – Updated and posted
 - [80.1.7 Rutgers University Website Policy](#) – Updated and posted
- Communications announced:
 - The Qualtrics survey results were shared through the agenda
 - Spring 2026 Senate Social at the Rutgers Club Feb. 27 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. This would include a tribute to Senator Boikess (deceased).
 - Website Updates- Ad hoc committees are in the process of being updated on the Senate website.
 - [Social Media Subcommittee of EC- Volunteers needed](#)
 - Senators Paul Boxer and Senator Marissa Syed volunteered
 - [Libraries response to S:2305-Auditing Courses at Rutgers](#)
 - Executive Committee Newark Student Vacancy

RBHS Chancellor Committee Search Senate Representation

Senator Rob Scott drew the committee's attention to the recommendations listed in [charge S-1909-1 Searches for University Leadership](#). While the recommendations are not adopted by the University, Senator Scott held that the process outlined should be strictly followed. However, the EC determined that its nominees should be drawn from among current Senators and not the University at large. The EC identified three representatives, namely, Senators Geza Kiss, Wendy Purcell, and Robert Schwartz. Chair Foster concluded that the Executive Secretary shall survey EC members on whether these nominees will be presented for endorsement at the December Senate meeting, or presented and accept other nominations invited from the floor to be voted on in order to put forth three Senators in total.

Executive Committee Newark Student Representative

Senator Paul Boxer volunteered to reach out to the Newark student Senators. A call out will be sent on Monday by the Executive Secretary to Newark student Senators.

Senate Social and Merchandise

Chair Foster reviewed the results of the survey and will follow up with the AllColors representative to get a meeting with the EC to discuss Senate branded items.

Listserv Communications – Senator Ashleie Gordy

Senator Ashleie Gordy left the meeting before this agenda item, submitted by her. It will be moved to Old Business for the December EC meeting.

Academic Freedom Group Update

Chair Foster summarized the November 4, 2025 meeting held between the EC, AAUP, and faculty council chairs. Senator Anna Haley reported that the New Brunswick Chancellor Francine Conway is working on convening a point person for those faculty experiencing attacks on academic freedom.

Discussion- Chancellor Brian Strom, RBHS

The Chair and members of the EC expressed their sincere thanks to Chancellor Brian Strom for his dedicated service to the University, noting that he shall step down at the end of the semester. After delivering his administrative report, Chancellor Brian Strom addressed questions on the following topics:

- Necessary skills and attribute for the new RBHS Chancellor
- NIH and NSF grant funding trends within the current federal government landscape
- Trends with RBHS and future goals through the lens of the new university President

Standing Committees/Panels

Open Charge Request

[Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Current Trends and Issues Regarding Federal Landscape Changes Impacting University Operations](#) requests updates:

- Name change to Rutgers MADC Taskforce
- [Updated charge language](#): This ad hoc committee/taskforce was established in April 2025 in response to the [Senate MADC Resolution approved on March 28, 2025](#). Its purpose is to advance the principles of *mutual academic defense* for Rutgers University – including collaborative and coordinated protection of Rutgers’ and other higher education institutions’ academic freedom, institutional integrity, and the research enterprise amid a changing federal and state landscape. The taskforce continues that work by engaging Rutgers leadership, including the University President, Board of Governors, and senior administrators, to explore the principles and practices consistent with mutual academic defense aligned with Rutgers’ core values and strategic interests. The committee also collaborates with shared governance leaders at other New Jersey colleges and universities to build a statewide higher education coalition (NJ-MADC) that strengthens collective defense of academic freedom and representative governance; the Senate approved a [resolution joining this body on October 17, 2025](#). In addition, it supports internal communication and educational efforts within Rutgers to deepen understanding of mutual academic defense principles and the University’s role in advancing them.

Because the MADC Taskforce ad hoc committee needed editorial changes to the name and members on the website, the EC agreed the changes could be made without formal vote. The updated charge language will be on the agenda for vote during the December EC meeting.

Due to time constraints of the meeting, the remaining agenda items will be moved to the December EC agenda.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

There was none.

Adjournment

The Executive Committee adjourned at 10:41 a.m. as there was no longer a quorum.

Minutes prepared by: Taryn Cooper, Executive Secretary of the University Senate