

Senate Executive Committee Resolution on the Rutgers University Budget

March 11, 2026

WHEREAS [recent coverage in the news media](#) of Rutgers University's finances has revealed that the Division 1 athletics program is currently about \$500 million in debt;

WHEREAS recent communications from central administration to deans around the university has indicated that the overall university budget plan will not increase, and likely lead to substantial cuts to academic programming that could include elimination of non-tenure-track and lecturer faculty lines, increases in class sizes, reductions in some research services, and reductions in academic offerings to students;

WHEREAS some academic units have already begun proactively eliminating teaching assignments and instructor lines in anticipation of significant budget cuts;

WHEREAS the Rutgers University Senate [previously has recommended](#) the inclusion of faculty and staff in all budget committees and decision-making;

WHEREAS all campuses of Rutgers University have been [increasing in their national rankings](#) and prominence, attesting to the importance of maintaining world-class academic offerings;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Rutgers University Senate advises the following:

1. Rutgers University shall prioritize academic excellence and educational service, including the provision of services such as health, social, and legal services connected to academic and professional training units, in its budgeting process.
2. There shall be no further consideration of budget cuts to academic programs on any campuses and especially in those units that are revenue-generating unless and until the operational deficit of the athletics program is eliminated.
3. Service to the debt or operating deficit of the athletics program shall not come at any expense to academic program budgeting, nor utilize any funds meant for the core educational mission (e.g., general funds, tuition funds, and/or state funds).
4. Any and all budget committees operating within central administration shall include faculty and staff representatives from all four chancellor-led units in their decision-making procedures.