

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
August 12, 2026**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrews, Boxer (Vice Chair), Campbell, Davis, Gittelman, Haley (Chair), Kiss, Knievel, Kustka, Pierce, Purcell, Sheppard, Vasquez.

ALSO ATTENDING: *T. Cooper (University Senate Executive Secretary), B. Everett (BOG Staff Rep), C. Ntiwunka-Ifeanyi (BOT Grad. Student Rep), R. Schwartz (BOT Faculty Rep).*

A special meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. remotely via Zoom.

Call to Order – Anna Haley, Senate Chair

Chair Haley called the August 12, 2026, Special Senate Executive Committee meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Brief introductions were held by the new EC members. Chair Haley outlined the three topics being covered during the meeting and described the facilitation of discussion; Chair Haley will lead the discussion regarding the assessment and evaluation of the School of Arts and Sciences – Newark Dean and Vice Chair Boxer will lead the discussion regarding the confidential topic. There was a question on what the Senate’s role in issues such as those topics on the agenda. Vice Chair Boxer clarified that the EC is not an adjudicative body to be involved in personnel matters but can make referrals to those offices who are. He further clarified that the Senate has a role in process establishment and protection.

School of Arts and Sciences – Newark Dean Mattis Ethics Concerns and Evaluation Update

The Dean is currently going through the typical decanal review process. Senators Purcell and Dane are the Senate representatives on the Dean Evaluation Committee, and the public summary of the review has not been released yet. There were questions regarding oversight of spending by administrators, if there is a flaw in the documentation process for spending procedures at the university, and if administrators are required to complete the yearly conflict of interest forms.

The EC agreed for Chair Haley to send a letter to the President, as Senate Chair, asking for an update on the ethics and compliance investigation being conducted and to inquire about a plan for interim leadership while the ethics investigation is ongoing.

Other Dean Concerns and Evaluation Update (refer to previously emailed material)

Senator Pierce reported that as this year’s New Brunswick Faculty Council Chair, she also received information on the confidential matter and held an emergency NBFC meeting with Chancellor Conway.

The EC agreed for Vice Chair Boxer to send a letter to the President, as Senate Vice Chair, asking for an investigation to be opened with the University Ethics and Compliance Office in relation to the confidential matter. The EC agreed for a letter to be sent to the President with the New Brunswick Chancellor included, to advise that administration action be taken given the concerns received by constituents. The letter should also inquire about what kind of assistance is being provided to support constituencies.

Department of Education Letter

The EC agreed to invite President Tate to both EC and Senate meetings in September to discuss his thoughts on the topic. The EC agreed for Chair Haley to send a letter, as Senate Chair, to President Tate asking to consult with the Senate before he responds to the DOE letter. The EC docketed this topic for the September Senate agenda.

Adjournment

The Executive Committee adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

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