

Memo

To: Robert L. Johnson, MD, FAAP, Interim Chancellor Rutgers Health

From: Wendy M. Purcell, PhD, FRSA, Vice Chair University Senate

cc: Taryn Cooper, Executive Secretary and Manager of the University Senate

Date: June 29, 2026

Re: Reporting Changes for Directors of Research Centers and Institutes

Your letter to Chair Foster of May 15, 2026, informing the University Senate of changes enacted by Rutgers Health to amend the reporting lines for directors of three research institutes and one research center, was included for discussion at the June meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (EC). I chaired the meeting, as Vice Chair of Senate, in the absence of the Chair and am following up directly on actions.

At the EC meeting, it was agreed that a letter (memo) should be sent with the following items:

- Thanking you for sharing the information.
- Drawing to your attention information on the Senate's advisory role ([Policy 50.2.2](#)) given the concerns expressed as to whether the executive actions taken comply with the policy.
- Informing you as Interim Chancellor that Rutgers Health Senators' thoughts will be collected on this change for further feedback to the administration as appropriate.

The Senate EC, acting on behalf of Senate when it is not in session, appreciates the information you shared concerning revisions to the reporting lines of four named Directors.

It is noted that all these Directors formerly reported to the Chancellor. The new arrangements see three of these Directors reporting to one of two Deans, and the fourth to another Director. While these supervisory changes are said to have been enacted to "streamline the reporting relationships to the Chancellor...", the EC noted that for two of the Directors their new reporting line is outside their home School, i.e., the Rutgers School of Public Health. This is held, by some Senators, to confuse lines of responsibility and accountability that may negatively impact faculty

research. Also, some Senators consider the executive action taken to enact the changes failed to properly account for the Senate's role (see 50.2.2., A "The Senate shall also regulate formal relationships among academic units within the University...").

Given the expressed concerns, it was agreed that the EC will solicit feedback from those Senators representing constituencies within Rutgers Health and report back. This will be undertaken through the next session and the incoming EC administration will apprise your office of any concerns emerging.

The next scheduled Senate EC is September 4, 2026 and we invite your considered response on the shared governance undertaken to inform the Directors' revised reporting lines, paying all due consideration to Policy 50.2.2.

Kind regards,



Wendy M. Purcell