MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Tuesday, March 20, 2012
Newark Campus, Paul Robeson Center

PRESENT: Carlos Dequina, Nikita Desai, Timothy Farrow, Board Treasurer; Glenn Gniirep, Shawn Golhar, Maurice Griffin, Vice Chair; Frank Hundley, Charles Ivory, Kenneth Johnson, Corporate Secretary; Harold Kaplan, Joseph Lemkin, Anthony Marchetta, Jennifer O’Neill, Katty Rivera, Suzy Swartz, Donna K. Thornton, Vice President for Alumni Relations; Christine Tiritilli, Chair; and Brian Wennersten

ALSO PRESENT: Jennifer Boscia-Smith, Director, Alumni Communications; Alexandra Brown, Administrative Assistant; Donna Donahue, Assistant Director of Alumni Programming; Lisa English, Director, Alumni Relations Newark; Bonnie Kennselaar, Assistant Director, Alumni Relations Newark; Chuck Mannella, Director, Alumni Relations, Camden; Yvette Martinez, Director, Volunteer Development; Tara Massey, Reunion Committee Chair; Kara McGann, Assistant Director of Outreach Programs; Kristy Omelianuk, Assistant Director for Alumni Benefits; Brian Perillo, Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations; Mike Rutkowski, Director of Reunions & Homecomings; Jennifer Sneed, Communications Committee Chair; and Zahara Wadud-Pinkett, Assistant Director, Alumni Relations Newark

EXCUSED: George Rears, Student Engagement Committee Chair; Dana Shapiro, Manager, Volunteer Services; Kate Sweeney and Gloria Wormley

CALL TO ORDER:
The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Ms. Christine Tiritilli, Chair, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES:
The minutes of the November 29, 2011 meeting of the Board were circulated in advance of the meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved following a motion (Jennifer O’Neill) duly seconded (Tim Farrow).

CHAIR’S REPORT:

Ms. Tiritilli provided a recap of her experiences since the last Board meeting in November. The Pinstripe Bowl that took place on December 30, 2011 at Yankee Stadium was a great win for Rutgers. The festivities at the bowl included the official Rutgers tailgate, which was very successful

Christine shared with the Board that she recently met with President McCormick to discuss the alumni response to the UMDNJ report. She noted that that the UMDNJ report would be discussed later in the meeting as an agenda item.
At a Board of Overseers meeting in late February, Christine listened to a presentation on the acquisition of a medical school. Although the concept of Rutgers acquiring a medical school is not a new concept, the presentation highlighted the benefits, potential revenue streams and possible partnerships.

The final selection of Rutgers 20th president has not yet occurred, and remains under a “cone of silence”. The work of the Presidential Search Committee is now complete, with the current slate of candidates being handed off to the Board of Governors to make the final decision. Christine noted that the pool of candidates is very diverse, and whoever is selected will do an excellent job.

**VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT**

Maurice Griffin observed that during the period since the last Board meeting, activity of moving the colors of the tactics on the Strategic Plan has been minimal. However, the body of work of the RUAA and engagement of new alumni continues to be strong.

**VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Donna Thornton began her report by thanking the Newark staff for the preparations of tonight’s meeting. She noted that Interim Chancellor Philip Yeagle was not able to attend this evening’s meeting, and called on Lisa English to convey his message, which follows:

- The chancellor is proud that Rutgers has achieved excellence in research, scholarship, and excellence in academic programs.
- The Chancellor communicates that Rutgers students come from different backgrounds.
- Is currently planning to develop Chancellor Awards, which will showcase the campus’ attributes. There will be an award given for “Excellence in Teaching”.
- Challenges the Newark Campus to achieve a higher graduation rate. He also would like to engage alumni and encourage them to continue to be a remarkable voice. He would also like to engage donors.
- He attests that the faculty, staff, and students will remain strong despite turmoil.

Following the review of Chancellor Yeagle’s message, Ms. Thornton continued her report:

President McCormick recently visited China in January, where he met with potential donors and alumni. His visit followed Carol Herring’s trip to the country this past fall, who met with alumni. President McCormick made planned stops in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong.

A committee has been established to plan events to introduce Rutgers future president to the university community. These events will introduce the alumni to the president, who will be featured as a speaker, and begin in the Fall, 2012.
There was a spike in the number of inquiries and comments from the alumni community when the Ravi trial reached a verdict. Terry McCuen, formerly the Director of the Camden Law Alumni Association, has joined Chuck Mannella and the AR staff in Camden as an Assistant Director of Alumni Relations.

Ms. Thornton is a part of a committee that is preparing for Rutgers 250th birthday celebration in 2016. Various events will be planned and presented to the university community. The RUAA will be a part of the celebration, with Reunion and Homecoming having themes that correspond to the celebration in 2016.

Ms. Thornton is also on a committee involving retired faculty and staff. At the current time, the database for retired faculty and staff contains approximately 1,000 retired faculty members and 900 retired staff. Improvement to the database is needed. The Alumni Relations office is assisting the advisory committee on ways the group can engage and cultivate its constituents.

The Rutgers University Muslim Alumni Association (RUMAA) recently met with President McCormick after the recent reports of the NYPD’s surveillance of Muslim students and faculty on and off campus at Rutgers. The meeting, which also included current Rutgers students, was positive, and allowed for mutual understanding. President McCormick sent a message to the Rutgers community after the meeting that addressed the university’s position on this issue. The Rutgers University Foundation has hired a new CFO, Christopher Zraly, who was the Controller of the RUF from 1999-2004. Before coming back to the RUF, Mr. Zraly worked with the University of Florida, and until recently was the CFO of The Ranney School in Tinton Falls, New Jersey.

PRESENTATIONS

Continuation of the Rutgers Block “R” License Plate Program- Donna Thornton

The Block “R” License Plate Program was implemented as a one year, pilot program in March 2011. Ms. Thornton noted the charter group affiliation of the license plates purchased. A total number of 193 have been sold between April 2011 and March 2012 (136 in NJ, 57 in PA). Due to the program’s success, a recommendation has been made to continue the license plate program, and to continue the partnership with the charter groups in the marketing of the plate. Special thanks were given to Kristy Omelianuk, who has headed up the efforts involving the license plate program.

RUAA Committee Descriptions

1) RUAA Communications Advisory Committee -Jennifer Sneed

The Communications Committee will be re-purposed, with a shift from its prior role. It will move from the principal task of creating and crafting large-scale communications to an advisory, overview, and review capacity. Jenifer Boscia-Smith will remain as the committee’s staff partner.

2) Ad Hoc Committee on Charter Relations -Christine Tiritilli
Proposed at the November board meeting, Ms. Tiritilli informed Board Members of the newly developed Ad Hoc Committee on Charter Relations. The purpose of the committee as presented to the Boards is to 1) develop RUAA charter groups, 2) ensure utilization of RUAA resources, 3) assist them in the development of relationships with schools and academic units, and 4) ensure group alignment with the RUAA mission to advance Rutgers. Mr. Glenn Gnirrep is the committee chair, and noted that a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Charter Relations will be available at the June meeting.

**Hall of Distinguished Alumni Presentations- Katty Rivera**

The Hall of Distinguished Alumni Awards Gala is coming up on Saturday, May 5th. The black-tie event takes place at The Heldrich, and will include live entertainment, dancing, award presentations, and dinner. A tribute video was created to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the event. Invitations have been mailed to all Board members, with registration currently open online. Ms. Rivera encouraged everyone to attend.

Donna Thornton added that President McCormick has agreed to fund a project that would install a display of H.D. A. recipients on the wall of the Visitor Center, similar to the donor wall that is already on display. She added that the display will be interactive, and it will provide information about each inductee and the RUAA.

**Alumni Centers Update- Anthony Marchetta**

Highlighting the Alumni Centers Committee report from February 7th, Mr. Marchetta noted the fund-raising efforts for the Camden center has currently been put on hold. Donna Thornton has met with President McCormick regarding the New Brunswick site. In regards to the Newark center, Brian Perillo and Donna Thornton have a meeting scheduled with Interim Chancellor Yeagle to discuss the project. Mr. Marchetta noted that the Alumni Centers Project could be a major priority for the new president coming on board.

**UMDNJ Advisory Committee Report -Christine Tiritilli**

Ms. Tiritilli lead a discussion regarding the events and developments that have occurred since the release of The Barer Report issued on January 25th. An email went out to the alumni body which addressed the possible merger of Camden and Rowan University; and the acquisition of Robert Wood Johnson, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and The School of Public Health. The email asked for alumni feedback. The RUAA has been responsive to alumni input, and has acted as a conduit for Rutgers Camden communications to alumni; including messages from the Chancellor and the Rutgers University-Camden Alumni Association and the Camden Law Alumni Association.

Ms. Tiritilli shared a proposed letter, which after Board review, will be sent to all alumni. The letter was from her as Chair of the RUAA. Some revisions to the letter from the Board were noted. Future discussions will need to take place regarding the rebuilding of relationships and trust when the issues regarding the merger cease.
CONSENT AGENDA - MOTION TO ACCEPT WRITTEN REPORTS:

Ms. Tiritilli reminded the Board that the agenda structure will not have verbal committee reports unless a committee must address the Board about an issue, at which point the topic will be placed under the New Business section of the agenda.

Christine Tiritilli calls for motion to accept reports. Motion approved. There was a motion to accept reports (Ken Johnson), seconded (Katty Rivera), with an opportunity for discussion. The written reports were accepted unanimously following a voice vote of all voting members present.

ACTION ITEMS:

Resolution to approve charter applications – presented by Kenneth Johnson

Three charter organizations were put forth and included the following:

- Rutgers Alumni of Small/Solo Farms of South Jersey
- Rutgers Formula Racing
- Rutgers University Insurance Professionals

There was a motion to approve the resolutions (Jennifer O’Neill), seconded (Tim Farrow), with an opportunity for discussion. The resolutions were approved unanimously following a voice vote of all voting members present.

Resolution to Amend the Description of the Communications Advisory Committee- presented by Christine Tiritilli

There was a motion to approve the resolution (Maurice Griffin), seconded (Kenneth Johnson), with an opportunity for discussion. The resolution was approved unanimously following a voice vote of all voting members present.

Resolution to Amend the Description of the Ad Hoc committee on Charter Relations- presented by Christine Tiritilli

There was a motion to approve the resolution (Kenneth Johnson), seconded (Maurice Griffin), with an opportunity for discussion. The resolution was approved unanimously following a voice vote of all voting members present.

Resolution to Continue the Block “R” License Plate Program- presented by Donna Thornton

There was a motion to approve the resolution (Charles Ivory), seconded (Frank Hundley), with an opportunity for discussion. The resolution was approved unanimously following a voice vote of all voting members present.

Resolution to Approve the Recommended Nominees to the University Senate- presented by Brian Wennersten
Brian Wennersten presented the Nominations Committee’s recommendation for the following alumni to be elected to the University Senate:

- Robert Don Barraco RC’85
- John Fiore RC’80

There was a motion to approve the nominees (Maurice Griffin), seconded (Tim Farrow), with an opportunity for discussion. The resolution was approved unanimously following a voice vote of all voting members present.

Resolution to Approve the State of Regular Members of the RUAA Board of Directors—presented by Brian Wennersten

Board Members and Committee Chairs on the slate were excused from the room. Brian Wennersten stated that the Nominations Committee was unanimously in favor for the slate of new Board Members as follows:

Board Members for a term July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015:

- Robert Eichert RC’78
- Salim Patel UCN’04
- Jennifer Sneed RC’03, SCILS’03
- Daniel Swartley-McArdle CCAS’09, GSC’12
- Jennifer Tennant CC’02

There was a motion to approve the slate of new Board Members (Maurice Griffin), seconded (Tim Farrow), with an opportunity for discussion. Christine Tiritilli recognized outgoing Board Members Carlos Dequina, Frank Hundley, Charles Ivory, Kate Sweeney and Gloria Wormley. She thanked all of them for their dedication and service to the RUAA.

The slate of new Board Members was approved unanimously following a voice vote of all voting members present.

PROGRESS ON RUAA BOARD GOALS

Ms. Tiritilli provided the Board with an update regarding the progress that has been made towards fulfilling the 2011-2012 RUAA Board Goals.

1) RUAA Board Members Development

Elevate the profile of the RUAA Board of Directors (develop a plan for this effort and present to the board for approval): Progress has been made on the development of a plan, with a report to the Board forthcoming. Some of the developments to elevate the profile of Board members include updates to the website to feature biographical information, contact emails and photos for all current Board Members. A “Did You
Know” column has also been introduced in issues of *Inside Alumni Relations*, which highlights existing Board Members. The creation of a special “RUAA Board Member” pin has also been done and is currently out for bid.

**Provide training for RUAA Board members in the areas of fundraising, RUAA Advocacy and Rutgers Advocacy**: Donna Thornton is currently working with colleagues at the Rutgers University Foundation to develop a fundraising training session for the Board; she is also collaborating with Pete McDonough, the VP for Public Affairs, on a program with relevance to the Board concerning Rutgers Advocacy.

2) **Develop Board Relationships/Mentorships with Chartered Leaders**

**Appoint an ad hoc committee to focus on this project in collaboration with the Volunteer Engagement staff partners**: the Ad Hoc Charter Group Committee is being formed, and will be chaired by Glenn Gnirrep.

3) **National Alumni Day of Service (11/10/11)**

Each Board member will participate in or organize a service project in conjunction with this initiative: 16 out of 20 Board members participated in the first international alumni day of service.

4) **Support the capital campaign, including 100% annual fund participation by the RUAA Board members**

As of February 28, 2012, 13 out of 20 Board members have made a gift to Rutgers in fiscal year 2012.

5) **Champion the Alumni Centers as a tribute to Rutgers Alumni**

The Alumni Centers project is continuing to move forward.

**DISCUSSION and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Thornton noted that Homecomings for Newark and New Brunswick have been established. Newark will hold their homecoming from September 24-29, and New Brunswick on October 27-28. The Alumni Leaders Conference (October 26-27) and the 2012 REAL Awards (October 26) will also coincide with homecoming in New Brunswick. REAL Award nominations are being accepted, and are due on June 1, 2012.

On Thursday, May 10th, the 2nd annual senior reception will take place in New Brunswick on the Old Queens campus. Lisa English added that the same tradition occurs on the Newark campus, also to be held on May 10th. Jennifer Sneed mentioned that the SC&I
Alumni Association and University College will be participating in Reunion activities this year.

Two upcoming events will involve Hall of Distinguished Alumni inductee, Terry Stewart. This August, Alumni College will be traveling to the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame. Events will be taking place at the venue, and at other locations in the Cleveland area. There will also be an event later this Spring at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Mr. Stewart will be present and speaking at this event, which will feature the new Bruce Springsteen exhibit.

Fellow Board member, Kate Sweeney, will be inducted into the Rutgers Alumni Association’s Loyal Sons & Daughters on Saturday, March 31.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kenneth Johnson  
Corporate Secretary

Prepared by:  
Alexandra Brown  
Administrative Assistant  
Alumni Relations, Newark