

**ROWAN UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES WEBEX MEETING**

July 24, 2020

**BOARD MEMBERS IN
ATTENDANCE**

Isabelita Marcelo Abele
Brenda Bacon
Chad Bruner, Chair
Michael Carbone
Barbara Chamberlain
Jean Edelman
Thomas Gallia
Fred Graziano
George Loesch
Martin McKernan
Kyle Perez, Voting Student Trustee
Robert Poznek, Vice Chair
Larry Salva, Secretary
Virginia Smith
Ali Houshmand, ex officio

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN
ATTENDANCE**

Frank Giordano
Linda Rohrer

**UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT**

Joseph Campbell, V.P. Facilities & Operations
Joe Cardona, V.P. University Relations
Joanne Connor, Chief of Staff/Board Liaison
Tabbatha Dobbins, V.P. Research/Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Terri Drye, V.P. Human Resources
Jeff Hand, Sr. V.P. Student Affairs
Mira Lalovic-Hand, Sr. V.P. Information Resources & Chief
Information Officer
Tony Lowman, Provost & Sr. V.P. Academic Affairs
Joseph Scully, Sr. V.P. Finance & CFO
Monika Williams Shealey, Sr. V.P. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Horacio Sosa, V.P. Strategic Ventures & Partnerships
RJ Tallarida, V.P. University Relations
Steven Weinstein, V.P. Government Affairs & External Partnerships
Melissa Wheatcroft, General Counsel
Lee Ann Barbin, Recording Secretary for the Board of Trustees

OTHERS

Members of the Rowan faculty, staff, students, and members of the general public.

CALL TO ORDER

An emergency meeting of the Rowan University Board of Trustees was held on July 24, 2020 via WebEx. Chair Bruner welcomed everyone to the meeting, called the Public Session of the meeting to order at 3:44 p.m.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

Dr. Connor read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement.

MOTION TO MOVE INTO PUBLIC SESSION

Chair Bruner entertained a motion that was seconded to move into Public Session.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Houshmand had nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING PENDING RESOLUTIONS

There were none.

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair Bruner opened with a statement, “These are very uncertain times for all of us. Although we are operationalizing our Restart Plan and intend to remain open throughout the fall and spring semesters, we recognize that we could be ordered to move all classes online and discontinue housing, or that the public health situation could deteriorate requiring us to take this course of action ourselves. This presents uncertainty among members of the University community, especially our students and their families. In addition, many of our students and their families have been directly impacted financially by loss of employment and other unexpected expenses, resulting in financial hardships. To help alleviate the anxiety of paying full tuition and fees, and to assist in a time of financial hardship for many, we have determined that cutting the overall cost of tuition and fees for in-state students by 10% is an appropriate course of action. Since we currently have separate tuition and fee rates, we cut both to achieve an overall savings of 10% from the rates approved in September 2019 for undergraduate tuition, an overall savings of \$1,437.60. We are also implementing a reduction of \$1,437.60 for out-of-state tuition. We are now showing you a resolution that we will vote on momentarily reflecting this action. The resolution is also available on the Board of Trustees webpage on the Rowan website.”

President Houshmand expressed his gratitude to the Board for considering this resolution, stating that providing high quality, affordable education has always been the main focus of the University.

RESOLUTION #2020.07.01

**AUTHORIZING REDUCTION OF TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE TUITION AND FEES
2020-2021**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act, (“Restructuring Act”), permits Rowan University, a public research university, to set tuition and fees for students, N.J.S.A. 18A:64M-9(o), and

WHEREAS, the University declared a state of emergency effective March 18, 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and implemented virtual learning and working environments for the Rowan community to ensure continued effective education while minimizing the likelihood of the spread of the disease, and

WHEREAS, Rowan has committed to furthering its four pillars, including quality, serving as an economic engine, access, and affordability, and is focused on the needs of its students during a period of increased unemployment, and immense personal and financial insecurity, and

WHEREAS, Rowan has concluded that it can best meet the needs of its undergraduate students in the areas of affordability and access by reducing its undergraduate tuition and fees to ensure that students experiencing financial hardship resulting from COVID-19 are able to access high quality education, and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2021 budget recommended by the University administration includes revenues derived from student charges, including student tuition and fees, and

WHEREAS, this Board previously authorized Resolution 2019.09.09, approving increases in undergraduate in state tuition and fees, bringing the total approved tuition and fees to \$14,376 for the Academic Year 2020-2021 for in state students and to \$23,408 for the Academic Year 2020-2021 for out of state students, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the pandemic and resulting and contemplated economic impacts, Rowan concluded an undergraduate tuition and fee adjustment was appropriate to address financial hardships experienced by Rowan students, and

WHEREAS, upon further reflection and following the implementation of a variety of cost savings strategies and careful financial and budgetary planning, Rowan has determined that a 10% reduction in the total in-state undergraduate tuition and fee amount from the originally authorized tuition and fee amount of \$14,376 for the Academic Year 2020-2021 to a new in-state total of 12,938.40 is appropriate in the current financial crisis, resulting in a savings of \$1,437.60, and

WHEREAS, Rowan has determined that out of state undergraduate total tuition and fees shall be reduced by \$1,437.60 from the originally authorized tuition and fee amount of \$23,408 to a new out of state undergraduate total of \$21,970.40 for the Academic Year 2020-2021

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Rowan University Board of Trustees rescinds Resolution 2020.06.09 to the extent that it implemented a tuition freeze for undergraduates, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees authorizes the reduction of in state undergraduate tuition and fees by 10% from the originally approved \$14,376 rate approved in Resolution 2019.09.09 for Academic Year 2020-2021 to a new tuition and fee total of \$12,938.40, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees authorizes the reduction of out of state undergraduate tuition and fees by \$1,437.60 from the originally authorized tuition and fee amount of \$23,408 to a new out of state undergraduate total of \$21,970.40 for the Academic Year 2020-2021.

SUMMARY STATEMENT/RATIONALE

This resolution authorizes the implementation of a reduction in total undergraduate tuition and fees from the previously approved increases pursuant to Resolution 2019.09.09 for Academic Year 2020-2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic impacts.

Chair Bruner entertained a motion that was seconded to approve Resolution #2020.07.01. Chair Bruner opened the floor to questions and recusals from the Board. There being none, a vote was taken 14-0 in favor and Resolution #2020.07.01 was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

COMMENTS BY TRUSTEES

There were no comments from the Trustees.

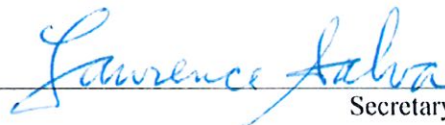
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Bruner entertained a motion that was seconded to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Lee Ann Barbin, Recording Secretary
for the Board of Trustees



Chair, Board of Trustees



Secretary, Board of Trustees