

**ROWAN UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES HYBRID RETREAT**

**October 23, 2025**

**BOARD MEMBERS IN  
ATTENDANCE**

Chad Bruner, Chair  
Anthony Calabrese  
Michael Carbone  
Jean Edelman, Secretary  
Thomas Gallia  
Jamar Hanks Non-voting Student Trustee  
Ali Ishage, Student Trustee  
Barbara Kushner  
George Loesch  
Nikitas Moustakas  
Nick Petroni  
Larry Salva, Vice Chair  
Virginia Smith  
Ali Houshmand, ex-officio

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN  
ATTENDANCE**

Joe Cosgrove  
Brenda Bacon  
Adam Taliaferro  
Steve Sweeney

**UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT**

Joseph Campbell, Vice Chancellor, Facilities and Operations  
Jeff Hand, Sr. Vice Chancellor Strategic Enrollment Management  
Mira Lalovic-Hand, Senior Vice Chancellor, IRT/CIO  
Tony Lowman, Chancellor  
Penny McPherson-Myers, Vice Chancellor, Student Access &  
Pathway Programs  
Joseph Scully, Sr. V.P. Finance & CFO  
John Zabinski, V.P. University Advancement/ Rowan University  
Foundation Executive Director  
RJ Tallarida, Chief of Staff  
John Veillieux, Chief Marketing Officer, Marketing and  
Communications  
Dave Weinstein, V.P. Government Affairs & External Partnerships  
Mei Wei, Vice Chancellor, Research  
Melissa Wheatcroft, General Counsel/Board Liaison  
Victoria Wood, Recording Secretary for the Board of Trustees

**OTHERS**

Members of the President's Office: Theresa DeVecchis, Lynn Sanders, Lori McFadden, Heather Martin, and Lee Ann Barbin.

**CALL TO ORDER**

A hybrid retreat of the Rowan University Board of Trustees was held on October 23, 2025, in the Eynon Ballroom in the Chamberlain Student Center on the Glassboro Campus and via WebEx. Chair Bruner welcomed everyone to the meeting, called the Public Session of the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT**

Ms. Melissa Wheatcroft read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement.

**WELCOME REMARKS**

President Houshmand opened the Board Retreat by welcoming everyone and providing an overview of the Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education, highlighting its key principles and significance.

**MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Bruner entertained a motion and was seconded for the Board of Trustees to move into Closed Session. A vote was taken 12-0 in favor. The first public portion of the meeting closed at 9:28 a.m.

**PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE**

Closed Session

**BOARD COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURE**

Closed Session

**RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

At 10:17 a.m., Chair Bruner stated that Closed Session had concluded, and no formal action was taken. Topics discussed included Transition Planning and West Campus updates. Chair Bruner entertained a motion that was seconded for the Board to return to public session. A vote was taken in favor to return to public session.

**ACADEMIC UPDATE**

Dr. Tony Lowman provided a comprehensive overview of Rowan University's journey toward achieving R1 status, tracing the progress from 2017—when the university was classified as R3—to the present. The next Carnegie Classification report and ranking cycle is scheduled for January 2028, at which point it will be announced whether Rowan has officially attained R1 status.

According to Carnegie guidelines, the classification is based on the number of doctoral degrees granted and the annual federal report detailing research expenditures. Specifically, the determination is made using a three-year rolling average, requiring institutions to average more than 70 doctoral degrees and over \$50M in research expenditures. Rowan currently exceeds both benchmarks, with a three-year average of 78 doctoral degrees and \$72.5M in expenditures.

There were initial concerns about how the pursuit of R1 status might impact undergraduate education, including fears that it could deter students or lead to unsustainable cost increases. However, these concerns have not materialized. In fact, Rowan's undergraduate programs remain robust, student enrollment continues to grow, and faculty members are thriving.

Rowan is on track to achieve R1 status. The focus now shifts from reaching this milestone to sustaining it in the years ahead.

Mr. Michael Roark gave an update on Rowan Online progress. The university's online education strategy focuses on meeting diverse student needs by expanding enrollment through strategic partnerships and a wide range of program offerings. Current reports indicate strong undergraduate enrollment, with more than 17,000 students, showcasing the success and growth of these programs. The primary student demographics include graduate students and transfer undergraduates, while first-time full-time students represent a smaller portion of the population. Online programs continue to gain popularity due to their flexibility, enabling students to balance their education with work and other commitments.

## **FORGING FORWARD CAMPAIGN**

Mr. John Zabinski provided an update on the campaign. The great news is that we've now entered the public phase of the campaign. Thank you to those that were able to participate in that day long celebration. It was truly yet another milestone for a university that continues to grow and prosper.

The former President's Forum is now being repackaged and rebranded as the President's Gala. We're pleased about where we are with over \$217M in new gifts, pledges and commitments towards the goal which is \$240M. Thank you all for the role you played in that. It's great to be at 91%. Campaign Events are being hosted at different locations where we see more of our alumni live so that we can meet our constituents where they are.

## **SAFETY FORWARD AND PROGRESS**

Mr. RJ Tallarida gave a university-wide safety update. On our four campuses, we have 40 sworn officers in total: 30 officers in Glassboro and 10 officers are in Stratford. We have 48 security guards spread throughout all four of our campuses. In addition, we have three people who run the Office of Emergency Management, Mr. Mike Kantner and two of his deputies. We moved toward a Chief of Police model; Rachel Baum is our chief of police. From a technological standpoint, we work very closely with the IRT Department. There is a total of 2,500 cameras throughout all campuses, with 1,983 on our Glassboro campus. These provide nearly 3,000 unique views of almost every area on our campus. Additionally, we have 3,218 card readers that give access to buildings so IRT can see who has been in what building and monitor access to all buildings. We are in the process of purchasing a drone, exclusively for the police to be able to do rooftop checks with thermal imaging to keep our campus safe. And we also have a Rowan Safe App. So, our students, our faculty, our staff, and people in the community can use this app, request a person to guide them home, to walk them home, and to have a buddy system so they can monitor where their friends are and they can confirm that with the app.

Dr. Tony Lowman emphasized the importance of student safety as Rowan continues to expand with new buildings on both the main and west campuses. With more students walking along Route 322, concerns about pedestrian safety have grown. To address this, Rowan is exploring funding options for a dedicated walking trail that would connect the main campus, Glassboro, and the west campus. Anthony Perno added that efforts are underway to identify funding sources and secure access to areas not currently owned by Rowan, ensuring the trail is both practical and safe for students.

## **MARKETING**

President Houshmand set the stage for our new Brand Campaign. Mr. John Veilleux met with multiple members of the board, faculty and students and found the best alternative for our branding campaign.

Mr. Veilleux shared the process for developing the campaign. The target audience was between the ages of 12–17-year-olds that is our traditional undergraduate, transfer students from the ages of 18- 24 years old, and graduate, adult and non-traditional students from the ages of 25-38 years old. After the Strategic Summit in August, Mr. Veilleux and his team listened to the Board’s feedback and met with multiple Board members and got to work on creating new taglines. Once the Branding Team had 30 taglines, they brought them in front of student intercepts. They were able to narrow the tagline down to four. After intercepting 424 students, faculty and staff, *Defy Definition* was the tagline that performed best overall for the University’s needs. The importance of understanding what is going to make this brand bold and powerful is the stories that we have yet to tell.

## **ACTION ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

Chairman Bruner stated that resolutions #2025.10.01 through #2025.10.03 are being considered individually.

## **VOTE TALLY**

Resolution #2025.10.01: 11-0 in favor (Mrs. Jean Edelman recused herself)

Resolution #2025.10.02: 11-0 in favor (Dr. Tom Gallia recused himself)

Resolution #2025.10.03: 11-0 in favor (Dr. Tom Gallia recused himself)

## **RESOLUTION #2025.10.01**

### **APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE RIC EDELMAN COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION, HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES FACILITIES PROJECT**

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to the New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act (“Restructuring Act”), the Board of Trustees has been empowered to direct and control expenditures and supervise the construction and demolition of buildings and projects, N.J.S.A 18A:64M-9(f) and (r), and

**WHEREAS,** Rowan University (“Rowan”) wishes to design and construct a technologically enhanced facility, inclusive of a Dean’s Suite and various academic spaces, in order to meet the evolving needs of the Ric Edelman College of Communication, Humanities & Social Sciences (“RECCHSS”), and

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to Resolution 2024.02.12, the Board of Trustees approved an initial total project budget in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 for professional services, and

**WHEREAS,** Rowan has concluded that supplementary professional services, including but not limited to preliminary development activities, design, surveying, engineering, pre-construction and early site packages associated with the site pad preparedness and development of the facility, and

**WHEREAS,** it has been concluded that an additional \$4,000,000 is necessary to provide the above-referenced services for the RECCHSS Project, and

**WHEREAS,** it has been determined that the total project budget for the RECCHSS Project shall be increased from \$4,000,000 to an amount not the exceed \$8,000,000, and

**WHEREAS,** the Senior Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer certifies that there are sufficient funds available to pay for the costs associated with the above-described professional services

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees that the total project budget for professional services for the new RECCHSS facility is approved in an amount not to exceed \$8,000,000.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that procurement relating to the professional services shall be accomplished in accordance with applicable law and policy.

#### **SUMMARY STATEMENT/RATIONALE**

This resolution approves a total project budget for professional services for the Ric Edelman College of Communication, Humanities & Social Sciences Facility Project in an amount not to exceed \$8,000,000.

Chair Bruner entertained a motion that was seconded to approve Resolution #2025.10.01. Chair Bruner opened the floor to questions and recusals from the Board. Mrs. Jean Edelman recused herself. A vote was taken 11-0 in favor and Resolution #2025.10.01 was approved.

#### **RESOLUTION #2025.10.02**

#### **APPROVAL OF A TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET FOR THE FIT OUT OF CLINICAL OFFICE SPACE FOR ROWAN-VIRTUA SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY**

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to the New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act (“Restructuring Act”), the Board of Trustees of Rowan University has been empowered to direct and control expenditures

and supervise the construction and demolition of buildings and projects, N.J.S.A 18A:64M-9(f) and (r), and

**WHEREAS,** the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine ("SOM") - Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology ("OB/GYN") currently occupies Suite 202 of the building located at 405 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road, Washington Township, NJ ("Premises"), consisting of approximately 2,600 square feet of medical professional offices ("MOB"), and

**WHEREAS,** the Lease Agreement shall expire by its terms on May 31, 2026, and

**WHEREAS,** as part of its strategic planning process, OB/GYN has determined that a larger MOB space would allow the Practice to better meet the needs of its existing patients and to expand its reach throughout the community, and

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to Resolution 2024.12.33, the Board of Trustees authorized Rowan to enter into a new lease agreement for approximately 4,000 square feet of clinical space, and

**WHEREAS,** approximately 4,200 square feet of rentable area known as Suite 104 on the first floor of the medical/professional building located at 405 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road, Sewell, New Jersey has been chosen as the premises for the new OB/GYN Practice, and

**WHEREAS,** the Landlord of the new Premises, The Atkins Companies, will fit out of the space, and

**WHEREAS,** through schematic design phase, the total costs for the fit out, furniture and equipment was determined not to exceed a total project budget of \$605,800, and

**WHEREAS,** the Senior Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer certifies that there are sufficient budgeted funds available to pay the expense authorized herein

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees that the total project budget for the fit out, furniture and equipment necessary to support the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Practice in Suite 104 at 405 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road is approved in an amount not to exceed \$605,800.

### **SUMMARY STATEMENT/RATIONALE**

This resolution approves a total project budget for fit out, furniture and equipment to support the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Practice in leased space located in Suite 104 at 405 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road, Sewell, NJ.

Chair Bruner entertained a motion that was seconded to approve Resolution #2025.10.02. Chair Bruner opened the floor to questions and recusals from the Board. Dr. Tom Gallia recused himself. A vote was taken 11-0 in favor and Resolution #2025.10.02 was approved.

## **RESOLUTION #2025.10.03**

### **APPROVAL OF A TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET FOR THE FIT OUT OF CLINICAL OFFICE SPACE FOR THE ROWAN-VIRTUA SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS**

- WHEREAS,** pursuant to the New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act (“Restructuring Act”), the Board of Trustees of Rowan University has been empowered to direct and control expenditures and supervise the construction and demolition of buildings and projects, N.J.S.A 18A:64M-9(f) and (r), and
- WHEREAS,** as part of its strategic planning process, the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine wishes to expand the Department of Pediatrics ("Peds") into Burlington County to better meet the needs of its existing patients and to expand its reach throughout the community, and
- WHEREAS,** pursuant to Resolution 2024.12.33, the Board of Trustees authorized Rowan to enter into a new lease agreement for approximately 4,000 square feet of clinical space to accommodate the expansion needs of the Peds Practice,
- WHEREAS,** 4,535 square feet of rentable area known as Suite 103 on the first floor of the building known as the Medford Medical Center located at 103 Old Marlton Pike in Medford, NJ was chosen as the premises for the new Peds Practice, and
- WHEREAS,** the Landlord of the new Premises, The Atkins Companies, will fit out the space, and
- WHEREAS,** through schematic design phase, the total costs for the fit out, furniture and equipment was determined not to exceed a total project budget of \$850,000, and
- WHEREAS,** the Senior Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer certifies that there are sufficient budgeted funds available to pay the expense authorized herein
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees that the total project budget for the fit out, furniture and equipment necessary to support the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine Department of Pediatrics Practice in Suite 103 at 103 Old Marlton Pike is approved in an amount not to exceed \$850,000.

### **SUMMARY STATEMENT/RATIONALE**

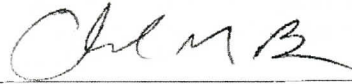
This resolution approves a total project budget for the fit out, furniture and equipment to support the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine Department of Pediatrics Practice in leased space located in Suite 103 at 103 Old Marlton Pike, Medford, NJ.

Chair Bruner entertained a motion that was seconded to approve Resolution #2025.10.03. Chair Bruner opened the floor to questions and recusals from the Board. Dr. Tom Gallia recused himself. A vote was taken 11-0 in favor and Resolution #2025.10.03 was approved.

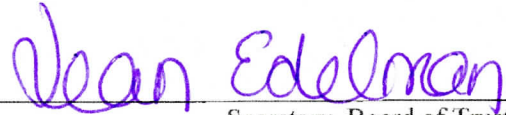
# ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Bruner entertained a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Victoria Wood, Recording Secretary  
for the Board of Trustees



Chair, Board of Trustees



Secretary, Board of Trustees