

**ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**Minutes**

**February 16, 2021**

A meeting of the Chancellor's Advisory Board of Rutgers University-Newark was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. via WebEx. Mr. Oliver Quinn, Chair of the Board, presided.

*Present and constituting a quorum were board members:*

Aisha Glover, Domingo Morrell, Richard Roper, Jane Gilman, John Schreiber, Marge Derrick, Mary Sue Sweeney-Price, Permelia Toney-Boss, and Michelle Hollar-Gregory.

*Attending from the University Administration were:*

Chancellor Nany Cantor, Executive Vice-Chancellor Sherri-Ann Butterfield, Board Secretary and Vice Chancellor Marcia Brown, Senior Vice Chancellor Peter Englot, Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Amber Carter-Randolph, Vice Chancellor Irene O'Brien, Senior Vice Chancellor Corlisse Thomas, Vice Chancellor John Gunkel, Dean Bill McCarthy, and Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Ashwani Monga.

*Others in Attendance:* Mayor Ras Baraka, Katherine Lloyd, Dylan Terpstra, David Lurachy, Tim Raphael, and Yiemy Gamez Castillo.

*Not in attendance:*

Associate Vice Chancellor Bil Leipold, Dean Ronald Chen, Michellene Davis, Sabrina Ahmed, Mi Hyun Yoon, and Roger León

Administrative support provided by Carla Hailey-Penn, Ana Rivas, and Carmen Yeats.

**Matters Presented by the Chair**

Chairman Quinn called the meeting to order at 12:05 and announced that the meeting would begin with Mayor Ras Baraka given his schedule and obligations. Chancellor Cantor introduced Mayor Baraka briefly before he began his remarks.

**Mayor of the City of Newark, Ras Baraka**

Mayor Baraka began his remarks by thanking Chancellor Cantor and the Board for the incredible work that has been done, particularly during this time of pandemic. Mayor Baraka discussed how the pandemic has affected the city of Newark and has also unearthed all manner of inequality across the country. He discussed, also, how the pandemic has exposed issues related to housing, healthcare, and policing, for example. Mayor Baraka framed this moment as a time of opportunity where we may now address and resolve issues which have come to surface more explicitly. Mayor Baraka reviewed various initiatives, including some which have involved nation-wide discussion, like reimagining policing. He mentioned establishing the Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery, viewing crime and violence as a public health issue, and including social workers in response teams.

Mayor Baraka also discussed a renewed focus on vacant lots and buildings to be used to reinvigorate and repurpose blocks and houses to sell to local residents in the community. In closing, Mayor Baraka discussed how Newark is free of lead after changing every lead service line; this has not been done anywhere else in the country. Mayor Baraka again thanked Chancellor Cantor for her leadership and thanked all in attendance for their time. Chancellor Cantor thanked Mayor Baraka and facilitated a brief Q&A session with him. A major discussion focus involved rolling out vaccinations in the city, especially for folks who need more accessibility or mobile vaccination options.

**Tim Raphael, Professor of Arts, Culture and Media at Rutgers University Newark and the Founding Director of the Center for Migration and the Global City and Yiemy Gamez Castillo, Immigrant Artist and Organizer**

Professor Raphael began his remarks with a discussion of the Newest Americans project and explained that it is a multimedia storytelling project based here at RU-N. He then shared a presentation which is available to all board members digitally. This video encapsulates a summary of the previous year's work and was shared with subscribers. Then, Professor Raphael discussed how the project connects to the curriculum, education more generally, and the professionalization of storytelling, especially from the student perspective. He provided an overview of the "Essential Until Expendable" story; its focus is on many of our most vulnerable community members who provide undocumented day labor and are ineligible for funding of any kind, and how so many have contracted the virus. Another story Professor Raphael featured involved foodscapes in the Ironbound; these locations are often at the heart of immigrant life and function as sites of history and storytelling. Additionally, he discussed the 37 Voices Project in the state of New Jersey, which focused especially on domestic workers; one piece was called "The Sacrifice Zone: Life in an Industrial Wasteland". This last project also featured the experiences of folks living in the Ironbound.

Next, Yiemy discussed aspects of these projects from her student perspective and shared exciting upcoming projects, like The Story Bus. She discussed various art projects, mobile audio projects, and education initiatives. She lamented that in most curricula, when immigration *is* taught, it is a small chapter that ends in 1965 when Ellis Island was closed; this leaves a massive gap in public knowledge and understanding of how immigration functions now. Yiemy also discussed the I AM VISIBLE project, which she co-founded; the project is based in Newark and uses art education to empower undocumented and immigration narratives. She explained her internship with Newest Americans and how it encouraged and inspired her to do more work in the city, to energize the community, and encourage them to tell their stories. Many of the stories have documented local life in communities in Newark through the time of pandemic. Much of this work was a lifeline to participants who found solace, community, and purpose in sharing their stories of struggle and survival. They are Stories from the Pandemic.

Professor Raphael again shared a presentation to show these Stories from the Pandemic. The website is highly interactive and available to the public: <https://www.storiesfromthepandemic.com/>. 80% of the stories come from students in the local community. The presenters closed by reasserting

that it is an amazing time to be in Newark and that this work is on the cutting edge of what American cities will—and already are—facing in this time of pandemic, immigration, and identity shifts. The talk was followed by a lively Q&A session.

### **Matters Presented by the Chair**

Chairman Quinn returned to the meeting agenda and thanked all presenters for their discussions. He also congratulated Roger León for his special award from the NJ Association of School Librarians for his wonderful support of school libraries. Chairman Quinn also thanked the administrative team and moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. He then turned the meeting over to Chancellor Cantor for her remarks.

### **Matters Presented by the Chancellor**

Chancellor Cantor thanked all presenters and reiterated the importance of the work our community members do, from the leadership of the Mayor to student perspectives and work like Yiemy's, to keep us inspired and focused on our collective work. Chancellor Cantor also acknowledged the loss of Provost Jerome Williams; she praised his work, his contributions, and his legacy to the community and University at large. She focused especially on his expertise in discriminatory bases of lending and capital investment and systemic obstacles; he has trained a generation of faculty and students in the Business School, and she thanked him again for his work.

Chancellor Cantor continued to briefly discuss events and examples of our anchor institution work and our commitment to the next generation. In her closing, she circled back to Yiemy as a representative of what we can and do produce. She thanked the board for their commitment and for connecting—and inspiring—alumni, businesses, faculty, University leadership, students, and community members.

### **Closing Remarks**

In closing, Chairman Quinn announced that the next meeting would be held remotely on May 11. The Chairman thanked everyone for joining the meeting and for continuing to be ambassadors for the University.

Respectfully submitted,



Christina Walling

*Director of Pedagogy, NJ-STEP*