



## RUTGERS POLICY

**Section:** 50.2.2

**Section Title:** University Senate

**Policy Name:** University Senate – Duties and Powers

**Formerly Book:** 2.2.2

**Approval Authority:** Board of Governors

**Responsible Executive:** Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Responsible Office:** Office of Academic Affairs

**Originally Issued:** 1959

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**Errors or changes?** Contact: [policies@oaa.rutgers.edu](mailto:policies@oaa.rutgers.edu)

1. **Policy Statement**  
The Rutgers University Senate is a university-wide deliberative body consisting of representatives of Rutgers faculty, students, staff, administrators, and alumni. The Senate meets to consider matters of general University interest, and to make recommendations to the University administration on those matters. This policy outlines the duties and powers of the University Senate.
2. **Reason for Policy**  
To establish the duties and powers of the University Senate.
3. **Who Should Read This Policy**  
All members of the Rutgers University community
4. **Related Documents**  
Policy 50.2.1, University Senate – Membership and Organization  
Policy 50.2.3, University Senate – Procedures
5. **Contacts**  
Office of Academic Affairs  
732-932-7174

## 6. The Policy

### 50.2.2 UNIVERSITY SENATE - DUTIES AND POWERS

- A. The Senate shall concern itself with all academic and non-academic matters pertaining to the mission of the University. Taking into account the diverse functions of the separate units of the University, it shall establish minimum standards respecting admission, scholarship and honors. The Senate shall also regulate formal relationships among academic units within the University, including the organization of the disciplines, recommend norms for teaching loads, and establish the University calendar. The Senate shall in addition have such other powers as the Board of Governors may delegate to it.
- B. The Senate shall advise the President on matters of broad educational and research policy, which matters include but are not limited to: (a) budget priorities and allocations and general planning, (b) the establishment or dissolution of colleges, schools, divisions, institutes, and similar educational units, (c) special affiliations and programs, (d) regulations affecting students and faculty, such as those concerning academic freedom, equal opportunities, and personnel practices and procedures, and (e) such changes in educational and research policy as are covered in the University Policy Library. The Senate may also initiate action on these matters. The President of the University shall act on such matters only after having received the advice of the Senate or after giving the Senate a reasonable time in which to present its views. If there is a question as to whether a matter is of broad educational and research policy, the Senate Executive Committee shall be informed in order to determine Senate action on that matter. When special circumstances require prompt action, and when the Senate as a body is either out of session or not available for timely consultation, the President shall ask the Executive Committee of the Senate to convene as expeditiously as possible, in order to hear the reasons why emergency action seems necessary and to provide counsel on both the assessment of the situation and the proposed course of action. If the full membership of the Senate Executive Committee cannot be convened within a reasonable period of time, the President shall consult with such members as can be convened by the Secretary of the Senate. At the earliest possible opportunity, a report on such emergency action shall be presented to the full Senate.
1. The President of the University shall, with respect to such matters, communicate to the Board of Governors, or to any other such agency to which he or she may report, the views of the Senate along with the President's own report and/or recommendation. Either at the request of the President or the Board of Governors, or upon its own initiative, the Senate may by resolution advise the President or the Board of Governors on any matters of concern to the University. The Senate shall be informed of the President's recommendation on matters on which the Senate has taken action prior to the meeting of the Board of Governors or its appropriate committee. Whenever the Board of Governors or one of its committees is considering a recommendation from the Senate, an appropriate additional representative of the Senate shall be invited to present the views of the Senate. The President shall inform the Senate of the disposition of all of its recommendations.
  2. In matters of significant consequence to the University's broad educational and research policies, a representative of the University Senate may appeal in the Senate's behalf to the Educational Planning and Policy Committee of the Board of Governors an action of the President of the University in which the representative alleges that the President has acted contrary to any of the following provisions: policy of the Board of Governors; these Regulations; State or Federal Law; a contract to which the University is a party except contracts involving collective bargaining; practice well established in the absence of Board policy or University Regulation; or the University's best interest in an action which establishes a policy in a matter not regulated by any of the foregoing. If the

Educational Planning and Policy Committee finds that the decision questioned is consequential and that the issue requires interpretation under any of the provisions above, the Committee will request the advice of the Senate on the issue if that has not already been offered and will refer the question to the Board of Governors for resolution.

- C. Any major decision in any academic or administrative matter affecting the faculty or students made at a departmental, college or any other internal level which requires prior consultation with the affected bodies, under provision of a policy of the Board of Governors, of these Regulations, of State or Federal law, of a contract to which the University is a party except contracts involving collective bargaining, or of a practice well established in the absence of Board policy or University Regulation, or which establishes policy in a matter not regulated by any of the foregoing provisions, may be appealed to the University Senate by the faculty or any division thereof or the student governing body of any interested unit of the University on the ground that the faculty or student body was not adequately consulted prior to making the decision. The appeal shall be made in writing, and shall include copies of any relevant document and a short statement of the reasons why the appellant believes this paragraph of University Regulations is applicable and the decision should be reconsidered. If the Senate decides to hear the appeal, the decision shall be suspended while the appeal is pending unless the President of the University determines that it is not practical to do so. If the President so determines, the President shall set forth in writing the reasons for the action. The Senate may exercise its power directly or provide that appeals be heard and decided by a committee. The Senate will not conduct a new hearing for the purpose of taking testimony but will act on the record of the committee's proceeding. The record will include a finding of facts on which the committee based its conclusions.