

Resolution on Decorum
Adopted by the Camden Faculty Council
June 18, 2026

Whereas the four Faculty Councils at Rutgers University, along with the University Senate, are the principal campus-wide and university-wide shared governance bodies at Rutgers University; and

Whereas the Camden Faculty Council, as one of those shared governance bodies, is legitimately interested in the smooth and effective functioning of the entire system of shared governance, including the University Senate; and

Whereas formal meetings of shared governance bodies are appropriately governed by rules of parliamentary procedure that explicitly include norms of decorum and mutual respect during deliberations; and

Whereas communications and discussions among members of these shared governance bodies are not limited to formal meetings but also occur on email lists and other forms of electronic exchange of views; and

Whereas these less formal modes of communication, though not governed by Robert's Rules of Order or other rules of parliamentary procedure, nevertheless need, so as to function properly and consistently with the spirit of genuine collegial shared governance, to maintain a high level of decorum and mutual respect for all members,

Therefore, be it Resolved that the Camden Faculty Council:

Affirms that all the email lists and other modes of informal group deliberation used by the shared governance bodies of the University, including the University Senate, should adhere to the spirit of the fundamental values of decorum and mutual respect appropriate to such deliberative bodies;

Further affirms that such exchanges should abide by the important norms set out in Robert's Rules of Order that members should not engage in personal insult or name-calling or impugn the motives, character, or personality of other members,

Emphasizes that these principles of decorum should bind all members of these shared governance bodies, including faculty, staff, students, and alumni, and

Strongly urges each of the university's shared governance bodies, including the University Senate, to commit itself to these principles and, if necessary, to promulgate guidelines for informal discussions, consistent with this important commitment, including rules for enforcing these principles.