



## **RUSA Bill F20- 01**

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**Sponsor:** Internal Affairs Committee

### **Bill to Approve the Referendum for 2020 RUSA Constitution**

*Whereas*, the current RUSA Constitution has only been amended three times since the creation of RUSA at 2007,

*Whereas*, the current RUSA Constitution was created to accommodate the merger of Rutgers Colleges after 2006 and fails to recognize the realities of Rutgers at 2020,

*Whereas*, campuses represent over 61% of the theoretical composition of RUSA while academic schools only represents 27% of composition, <sup>1</sup>

*Whereas*, the President of RUSA has no veto power to check the Assembly nor does the position have the proper authority to execute the demands of the Assembly and the student body, <sup>2</sup>

*Whereas*, since Rutgers College Governing Association<sup>3</sup>, the Parliamentarian has had almost total authority over the Judicial System and Governing Document reviews,

*Whereas*, there is room to improve on the current model for student fees, particularly in its treatment and management by different professional school governments as the current Constitution Article 6.04 dictates 20% of these student fees must go to these governments.

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<sup>1</sup> [Current + Proposed Composition of RUSA](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Fall 2020- Constitutional Ad-Hoc Final Report](#)

<sup>3</sup> [RCGA Constitution of 2002](#)

**Therefore, be it resolved by two-thirds of the Assembly that a student referendum shall be held during the Fall 2020 elections in accordance with all applicable procedures under the Constitution and the Standing Rules, where —**

1. The Assembly hereby approves of the following question being posed to the undergraduate student body during the Fall 2020 elections: “Shall RUSA’s Constitution be completely amended to the proposed Constitution instead of the current constitution?”
2. Each eligible voter shall be able to answer “YES” or “NO” to the above stated question, or they may not vote for the question.
3. The following explanatory text shall be placed on each ballot stating: “Since 2010, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA, or the Assembly) has maintained the same Constitution with limited substantive amendments. The Assembly proposes a new Constitution to the student body, a Constitution which sets out a number of changes. Of these changes, the President would be given the power to veto any legislation passed by the Assembly; this veto may be overturned by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the Assembly. Additionally, the Vice President would chair Assembly meetings (previously this was done by the President). The new Constitution would change the distribution of the Assembly by establishing a new position, Professional School Representatives, and reallocating campus representatives to represent different groups. A new Judicial Council would also be formed, a council that would be given all judicial power under the Assembly. The new Constitution would also establish that RUSA would receive all student fees, from which those funds would then be distributed, rather than the previous system of professional student governments receiving 80% of fees from the professional students enrolled in those schools. The full document for the proposed constitution is attached to this page.”
4. The ballot shall contain a link to the proposed Constitution along with the Transition Document, which can be found in Appendix A of this resolution, to the current Constitution.
5. If a majority of students voting cast their ballots in the affirmative and at least one tenth of the undergraduate students vote on the referendum question, the proposed version of the RUSA Constitution shall be adopted by the Assembly and the Transition Document attached as Appendix A will be in effect until the start of 15th Assembly, or RUSA 2021-2022.
6. The Elections Committee shall be charged with furnishing a copy of the referendum question on the ballot to the Internal Affairs Committee for approval. The Internal Affairs Committee shall certify the results of the referendum, as required by Article 9 of the RUSA Constitution.

Appendix A:

**Link Table:**

[Proposed Constitution](#)

[Transition Document](#)

[Constitutional Reform Ad Hoc Folder](#)