

Rutgers-New Brunswick Chancellor Resigns

Debasish 'Deba' Dutta cites differences between his leadership vision and the N.J. university's

By Bhargavi Kulkarni

Just a year after becoming chancellor of the Rutgers-New Brunswick campus, Debasish "Deba" Dutta has resigned.

Dutta announced his resignation in a university-wide email, stating that there were differing views about his position. "It has become clear that my vision for the chancellorship is not in alignment with that of the University," news reports said, quoting the email. "It is only fair that I step aside and let the university select a new leader for the New Brunswick campus. Serving in this role "at one of America's oldest and most prominent land-grant public universities has been a distinct privilege," he wrote.

Dutta was appointed chancellor in April 2017. He will continue to receive his base salary of \$480,000 for the next year while he is on sabbatical, news reports quoted Peter McDonough, senior vice-president of external affairs for Rutgers, as saying. Dutta is said

to be returning to Rutgers as a distinguished professor in the school of engineering.

Christopher Molloy, the university's senior vice president for research and economic development since December 2013, was named interim chancellor of the New Brunswick campus. Molloy was previously the dean of the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, the interim provost for biomedical and health sciences, and the interim chancellor of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences.

Although the university hasn't provided details about Dutta's sudden resignation, news reports, quoting the university staff, have speculated that Dutta and Rutgers president Robert Barchi have had differences which resulted in a fallout. A report in *highereducation.com* said that faculty members were left surprised and unsettled by the decision. The report said some members of the faculty described Dutta as "leader who was a strong personality, but someone who would offer honest, respectful



Debasish "Deba" Dutta

and well-reasoned opinions."

New Brunswick Faculty Council Executive Committee members and an associate professor of English at the university's New Brunswick campus told *hugereducation.com* that Dutta and Barchi were "at loggerheads" about several matters, including handling of power and Rutgers's Big Ten athletics program.

As chancellor of Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Dutta held responsibilities that included overseeing the largest of the three major Rutgers University campuses with more than 50,000 students, 4,000 faculty, 12 degree-granting

schools, nine academic research centers, four administrative units, a premier Honors College, Douglass Residential College and the Zimmerli Art Museum, said a university press release, issued during Dutta's appointment.

Dutta spent three years at the National Science Foundation, where he served as acting director of the Division of Graduate Education and as IGERT program director.

Prior to joining Rutgers, Dutta was the provost and executive vice president for academic affairs and diversity at Purdue University, with a faculty appointment as a professor of mechanical engineering. Before that he worked at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Dutta holds a PhD in industrial engineering from Purdue, a master's degree in engineering management from the University of Evansville and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Jadavpur University in Calcutta, India.

Chicago Professor Receives International Prize for Study of Water Scarcity

A professor of geography and civil and environmental engineering at the University of Illinois, Urbana-



Murugesu "Siva" Sivapalan

Champaign has been awarded the eighth biennial Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water. The

global scientific award "recognizes scientists, researchers, and inventors for their creative and effective methods of addressing water scarcity," according to a university press release.

Murugesu "Siva" Sivapalan and his colleague, Günter Blöschl, professor at the Vienna University of Technology, "received the Creativity Prize, which rewards cutting-edge interdisciplinary scientific work in a water-related field," wrote a University of Illinois release. "They and another team from the University of Manchester in the UK will share a cash prize of 1 million Saudi Riyals, the equivalent of \$267,000, which will be presented at an awards ceremony," said the release. The ceremony will be held later this year at the United Nations headquarters in Manhattan.

The press release said: "In 2012, Sivapalan and Blöschl launched a new scientific field, socio-hydrology, to examine the two-way interactions between people and water systems. Their groundbreaking theoretical and practical work in this area has helped geographers, hydrologists, and engineers better understand and manage the physical and social processes behind changing water cycles in the face of population growth and climate change."

Megan Konar, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering — who has worked closely with Sivapalan — was quoted in the release as saying: "Siva has passion for all things water, and a truly creative way of looking at the world. He took a chance by developing the field of sociohydrology, which has now become an urgent field of inquiry."

— By a Staff Writer

Indo-American Arts Council Taps New Leaders

Nirmal Mattoo selected chairman, Sunil Hali becomes exec director

By a Staff Writer

The Indo-American Arts Council announced a new team leading the non-profit arts organization, including Dr. Nirmal Mattoo as chairman and Sunil Hali as executive director.

The team also includes vice chairman Rakesh Kaul, Board members Anurag Harsh, Anil Bansal and Rajeev Kaul, and Advisory Board members Yakub Mathew, S. Sridhar and Gaurav Verma. They were installed during an event July 30 at the Consulate General of India in Manhattan where Consul General of India in New York Sandeep Chakravorty honored Aroon Shivdasani for her contribution in promoting India's arts and culture and stressed the importance of propagating Indian arts. Dr. Mattoo also presented Shivdasani a plaque on behalf of IAAC.

The leadership changes come following the announcement that executive and artistic director Shivdasani was retiring after two decades of involvement with the IAAC.

The IAAC website describes itself as a "not-for-profit, secular service and resource arts



Aroon Shivdasani, the former executive and artistic director of the Indo-American Arts Council, fifth from left, with the newly formed team leading the IAAC, at an event held May 30 at the Consulate General of India in New York. From left, executive director Sunil Hali, Advisory Board member Yakub Mathew, vice chairman Rakesh Kaul, Board member Anurag Harsh, Shivdasani, Consul General of India in New York Sandeep Chakravorty, chairman Dr. Nirmal Mattoo and Board member Rajeev Kaul.

organization charged with the mission of promoting and building the awareness, creation, production, exhibition, publication and performance of Indian and cross-cultural art forms in North America." It says the IAAC "supports all artistic disciplines in the classical, fusion, folk and innovative forms influenced by the arts of India" and that it aims "to work with artists and arts organizations in North America as well as to

facilitate artists and arts organizations from India to exhibit, perform and produce their works in the U.S."

Hali said that as the executive director he plans to take the organization to the "next level" and expand it within the U.S. and India.

His focus will be on dance, films, music, painting, theater, fashion and literature.

Shivdasani told *India Abroad* in May that her retirement

comes "at a right time" to pave the way for a "new young brood of people." Her initial plans to retire two years ago when she turned 70 didn't work out, she said, but now the time has come "to let go."

"My baby is 20 years old now," she said in the interview. She said she's brought the IAAC to where it is now, and it's now a platform waiting to develop under a new leadership.