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**Barbara A. Lee**  
*Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*

November 3, 2016

Mr. Kenneth Swalagin  
University Senate  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
ASB III, Suite 110  
Cook/Douglass Campus

Dear Mr. Swalagin:

I am writing in response to a question that was posed to President Barchi by Senator Van Stine at the October 14, 2016 meeting of the University Senate, regarding the progress of the University's participation in the Sailor Marine Corps American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART) program for processing transfer credits for military coursework. In 2013, the SMART program was aligned with similar programs for the Army and Coast Guard into one collaborative military transcript, called the Joint Services Transcript (note that Air Force transcripts are not included, as they are provided through the Community College of the Air Force). With this collaboration, service members and veterans have one officially recognized military transcript. The American Council on Education (ACE) has evaluated academically-oriented military coursework and ACE's course descriptions and credit recommendations appear on the Joint Services Transcript. Those courses evaluated by ACE as having appropriate college-level academic course equivalents are then reviewed by Rutgers academic departments for Rutgers course equivalents. Having the common ACE ID number, title and evaluation expedites the review process for military courses in comparison with courses completed at other institutions of higher education, and has become an important tool in evaluations of military transcripts across the University.

The issue of transcript review for student veterans was addressed in the recent proceedings of the New Brunswick Chancellor's Strategic Planning Task Force on the Transfer Student Experience. The Task Force's recommendation was that a unified practice across New Brunswick be adopted for these military transcript evaluations. They further recommended that the Deans' offices in the Schools facilitate the evaluation of course equivalences for the ACE courses by the appropriate academic departments (where the particular evaluations must be made), and that these evaluations for military courses be included in RUTransfer or other such database for keeping track of course evaluations completed. A new Chancellor's Council on Transfer Students is being established in accordance with another recommendation of the Task Force, and this group will oversee the implementation of the Task Force recommendations.



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The administration is actively looking for ways to transform the student experience at Rutgers, and assisting our student veterans in receiving a swift and fair review of potential transfer credit for their educational achievements while in service to our country is among these. We will continue to strive to improve the infrastructure that affects their lives. I appreciate Senator Van Stine's dedication to the student veterans he represents, and I thank him for bringing this matter to the President's attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara A. Lee".

Barbara A. Lee

c: Robert Barchi, President  
Richard L. Edwards, Chancellor, Rutgers University–New Brunswick  
Ben Sifuentes-Jáuregui, New Brunswick Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Academic Affairs  
Ann Treadaway, Director, Office of Veteran & Military Programs and Services