

Text of Email from John Oberdiek to Ann Gould re Merger of Newark and Camden Law Schools

From: John Oberdiek [mailto:oberdiek@rutgers.edu]
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2014 5:30 PM
To: gould@aesop.rutgers.edu
Cc: Ronald Chen; rpuhak@rutgers.edu
Subject: Rutgers Law

Dear Ann,

At today's meeting of the Structure and Governance Committee, of which I'm a member, we discussed University Senate Charge S-1403, concerning unit mergers and other structural changes. I've been keenly interested in the Committee's work on this front, as Acting Dean of Rutgers-Camden Law, because Rutgers' two law schools are hoping to merge. Committee co-chair Robert Puhak suggested that I reach out to you now to convey the intent that Rutgers-Newark Law's Acting Dean, Ron Chen, and I have to bring our proposed merger before the University Senate in early 2015.

I know that S-1403 was prompted by the top-down rush to approve the nursing merger and the Senate's subsequent desire to create a more deliberative and well-conceived process to govern such matters going forward. Our merger is being proposed by the law schools, not the central administration, after years of consideration, with the support of both faculties, as well as the blessings of Chancellors Cantor and Haddon. This is not, in short, a top-down rush job. Our goal is to have the merger consummated this academic year. To that end, Ron and I are committed to providing the Senate with every opportunity to analyze our proposed merger, regardless of whether the Senate adopts a regulation requiring it. In this way, we hope to model the kind of behavior that the Senate would like academic units seeking structural changes to exhibit.

If you have any questions for Ron and me, please don't hesitate to ask. And if you have specific guidance that you think would be helpful, please do share it - we'd be most grateful. In addition to the University Senate, our proposed merger must satisfy the Board of Governors as well as the American Bar Association, so we'd definitely appreciate any advice about how to make the Senate process, at least, run smoothly. Thank you.

Best, John

John Oberdiek

Acting Dean and Professor, Rutgers School of Law, Camden