



RUTGERS

THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW JERSEY

Robert L. Barchi, President

January 12, 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 the University Senate's December 2014 report and recommendations on Charge S-1311 on the Process of Changing Rutgers Cultural and Traditional Icons, as presented by the Senate's Student Affairs Committee.

With respect to the Alma Mater, the changes made to the lyrics in 2013 are in place, and I do not think it would be appropriate to revisit this issue anytime soon. Any additional changes (or changes back) made within such a short period of time would create disruption and confusion.

Regarding the broader issue of changing other cultural and traditional Rutgers icons, while I do believe the University Senate should be consulted and have significant input into these decisions, I do not agree that all modifications to these icons must be the exclusive purview of the Senate.

Sincerely,

Robert Barchi

c: Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, Rutgers University-Newark
Richard L. Edwards, Chancellor, Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Phoebe Haddon, Chancellor, Rutgers University-Camden
Barbara A. Lee, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs