



Robert L. Barchi, President

September 11, 2017

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 October 2016 report and recommendations on Charge S-1401, on Taking Courses on Other Campuses/Intercampus Equivalency. My thanks to the members of the University Student Affairs Committee for their work on this matter.

As the Senate report noted, the New Brunswick Chancellor's Task Force on Transfer Students, under the direction of the Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, addressed this issue in its June 2016 report. One of the recommendations of that task force was to create a permanent Chancellor's Council on Transfer Students. That Council has been established, and one of its charges will be to make recommendations in the area of course equivalencies across campuses.

Discussion of course equivalencies across Rutgers campuses falls into two categories: course equivalencies for students who are officially transferring from one Rutgers school to another Rutgers school on a different campus; and course equivalency for Rutgers students who are not transferring schools, but just wish to take a course on another campus.

As I understand it, the Senate is recommending that Rutgers create an electronic resource that would list all the courses available on each campus and indicate their equivalency with identically named and similarly named courses offered on all other campuses. This would be similar to the NJ Statewide Transfer Website that supports community college transfer to 4-year colleges under the Lampitt Law. Creating and maintaining such a comprehensive website would be a very labor-intensive project, so the Transfer Council is exploring different existing software packages, and looking at what our peer institutions do, in order to identify models that we may be able to adopt here. In particular, I am told that the system in place at the University of Maryland looks promising. I will ask the Vice Chancellor to keep the Senate informed as these systems are considered.

In the meantime, students wanting to register for a class on another campus would be well-served to submit such courses for *prior* approval on their home campus *in advance* of registering for them if they want to be certain that they will receive equivalency credit toward their major or toward their general education/core curriculum requirements. Some departments and programs in New Brunswick already have on their websites a listing of courses from other Rutgers campuses or schools that would transfer as well as the level of equivalency (for example, Chemistry details which courses from all New Jersey schools, including Rutgers-Camden and Rutgers-Newark, are accepted toward their degrees: [http://chem.rutgers.edu/images/PDFs/undergrad/Equivalency\\_List.pdf](http://chem.rutgers.edu/images/PDFs/undergrad/Equivalency_List.pdf)).

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We have made one change already in the way that courses are listed in the schedule of classes and other venues. Previously, online classes were listed together without reference to which campus was offering them. We have changed that to list online classes by campus, so that students are aware of which campus is offering the class and thereby reduce the chances of students signing up for a class on another campus inadvertently.

By copy of this letter, I am asking the chancellors to continue to work toward resolving the matter of course equivalencies across campuses and between schools. I am grateful to the Student Affairs Committee for its helpful recommendations.

Sincerely,



Robert Barchi

c: Barbara A. Lee, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, Rutgers University–Newark  
Deba Dutta, Chancellor, Rutgers University–New Brunswick  
Phoebe Haddon, Chancellor, Rutgers University–Camden  
Brian Strom, Chancellor, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences