



# RUTGERS

THE STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW JERSEY

Robert L. Barchi, President

February 1, 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 March 2015 report and recommendations on Charge S-1402 on the Cost of Textbooks. I thank the members of the Senate's Student Affairs Committee for their attention to this important issue.

My administration recognizes the financial impact that rising college textbook costs have on Rutgers students, and is supportive of efforts to increase the number of Rutgers faculty members assigning open textbooks in their courses. To that end, Rutgers Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer Michele Norin has expressed her willingness to fund, on a one-year pilot basis, the Senate's proposal for a \$12,000 competitive grant program to help faculty from across the university modify their courses to use open textbooks. Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian Krisellen Maloney has agreed that the Libraries will design and administer the pilot program, which will include defined outcome measures to assess the program's effectiveness.

We are eager to find ways to ease the financial burdens on our students and appreciate the Senate's recommendation to help reduce the cost of college textbooks.

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  
Krisellen Maloney, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian  
Michele Norin, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer  
Brian Strom, Chancellor, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences