



Robert L. Barchi, President

April 20, 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 April 2016 report and recommendations on Charge S-1403, Process for Unit Mergers or Other Structural Changes. I thank the members of the Senate for bringing their concern over certain phrasing in Policy 50.2.2 University Senate – Duties and Powers to my attention.

I understand the challenges that were presented with the evolution of the nursing education programs over the past several years, and appreciate the response of the University Senate in each case to facilitate the accumulation of feedback and advice needed to strategically move these programs forward. I, along with the members of the Board of Governors and its Committee on Academic and Student Affairs, depend on this efficient process to be able to make adjustments necessary to keep our educational programs in line with current educational requirements. I will endeavor to see that requests for the University Senate to review proposed changes in academic units are provided as early as possible, and afford an acceptable period of time for evaluation.

I appreciate your interest in having the Senate more fully engaged in the planning process for creating, merging, or dissolving academic units. However, I cannot accept your recommendation that University Policy 50.2.2 be changed to provide the Senate with regulatory authority over the establishment, dissolution, merging, or major restructuring of colleges, schools, institutes, and other units. Policy 50.2.2 currently gives the Senate an advisory role with respect to the establishment or dissolution of colleges, schools, divisions, institutes, and similar educational units, and it is appropriate that the Senate provide such advice. The process of creating or dissolving academic units involves significant faculty and administrative engagement prior to sending such a proposal to the Senate for its advice. The "regulatory" process proposed by the Senate would in some respects duplicate the work already done by the relevant faculty and administrators.

Rutgers is indebted to the members of the University Senate for your continuous process review and thoughtful recommendations. I greatly appreciate your efforts in providing input and advice as we address our mutual interest in strengthening the University.

Sincerely,



Robert Barchi

c: Barbara A. Lee, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs