



Robert L. Barchi, President

January 11, 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 November 2015 report and recommendations on Charge S-1410 on Honorary Degree and Commencement Speaker Selection Processes. The members of the Senate's University Structure and Governance Committee have my thanks for their thoughtful recommendations.

The Senate has proposed an inclusive, transparent, and flexible process and committee structure for discussing and ranking nominees for selection as honorary degree recipients and/or commencement speakers. I endorse the process for use, beginning with the 2017 commencement, with one suggested revision. The process as currently proposed does not include any reference to dates or deadlines. As you know, highly accomplished people have many demands on their time and must be invited to attend such events far in advance, often a year or more before the ceremony, in order to accommodate their schedules. In light of that fact, I am requesting that the process be modified to include some language that reflects the need for timely action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bob Barchi'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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  
Brian Strom, Chancellor, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences