



Robert L. Barchi, President

October 5, 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 May 2015 report and recommendations on Charge S-1414, Removing Barriers to the Education of Military Veterans. I applaud the Student Caucus for bringing this issue to the attention of the University Senate, and I thank the Senate's Academic Standards, Regulations and Admissions Committee (ASRAC) for its thoroughness in outlining areas of importance in better assisting our military veterans as they negotiate the academic requirements at Rutgers.

Rutgers is incredibly proud of the military service members who come here to continue their academic training. We are honored to be recognized by various organizations as outstanding supporters of student veterans at each of our locations, and committed to continue improving these programs and services.

After reviewing the ASRAC recommendations with Ann Treadaway, Director of the Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services, I want to inform the Senate of what we are now doing to assist our student veterans in receiving both credit for their academic accomplishments while in service to their country, and ongoing support while they are at Rutgers.

With respect to receiving transfer credit for military education and training, as you note, the School of Arts and Sciences–New Brunswick grants up to 6 graduation credits for leadership training that is roughly equivalent to Military Leadership courses offered to New Brunswick ROTC students. At my request, Director Treadaway will explore whether other Rutgers Schools and locations would be willing to grant such credit for military leadership. In addition, we will continue to monitor the progress of NJ PLAN (Prior Learning Assessment Network) at Rutgers University–Newark to determine whether this program should be considered at our other locations.

The University has academic advisors who have been trained in the unique situations particular to those entering Rutgers following military service, and they are available at each location. We have been expanding the number of staff members dedicated to helping student veterans and implementing a new strategic plan to best use our resources in assisting them.

In order to promote information-sharing and best practices, we have created a list (including contact information) of all staff who work with military-affiliated students and distributed it to everyone on the list; we have also asked faculty members to contact us if they are interested in receiving the list. I also note that the services available to student veterans at Rutgers–New Brunswick are open to our student veterans at any Rutgers location.

This past July the Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services hosted a professional development day for staff who serve veterans across all Rutgers locations, to address best practices and expand opportunities for our student veterans. The Office is also developing a Military Cultural Competency Training program for use across all Rutgers locations to help better respond to the needs of our student veterans.

As another means of supporting our student veterans, the University recently joined Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE), a collaboration of 42 universities across the nation, including many Big Ten members. PAVE connects incoming veterans with student veterans already on campus in order to help them navigate college life, identify challenges they are facing, provide academic and personal support, and refer them to appropriate resources.

The University is indebted to the members of the University Senate Academic Standards, Regulations and Admissions Committee, and the Student Caucus, for the useful information and thoughtful recommendations they have provided. Rutgers strives to provide the highest level of support to our student veterans as they pursue their academic goals and plan for great achievements following their military service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Barchi".

Robert Barchi

c: Barbara A. Lee, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ann Treadaway, Director of the Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services