



Robert L. Barchi, President

April 30, 2019

Ms. Mary Mickelsen
University Senate
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Liberty Plaza, Suite 1200
College Avenue Campus

Dear Ms. Mickelsen:

I am writing in response to the University Senate's February 2019 report and recommendations on Charge S-1802, Online and Hybrid Course Support. I thank the members of the Senate's Instruction, Curricula, and Advising Committee for their work on this issue. Progress has been made on the items that were raised in the recommendations.

The Office of Information Technology will continue to support the Sakai software product as we undertake the migration to Canvas as the University-wide Learning Management System. Information to keep faculty advised of progress and resources on the migration is available on the transition website at <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/transition>. A timeline for full transition to Canvas is still under development, and users of Sakai and other learning management systems will be given ample time to migrate course and non-course content to Canvas.

I have asked senior vice president for academic affairs Barbara Lee to update Policy 50.3.7 - Copyright Policy to include the addition of the recommended language where necessary to reference the extension of copyrights of pedagogical materials to our Learning Management Systems.

With the full implementation of the Office of Scheduling and Space Management's new course scheduling platform next year, we will have additional functionality to track when available classroom spaces are not being used by scheduled hybrid classes. To most efficiently utilize these spaces, it would be helpful for staff within the respective Dean's offices to watch for alignment opportunities when classes of similar sizes could be scheduled to share spaces, and to advise the Office of Scheduling and Space Management of these possibilities.

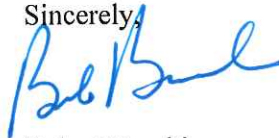
Lastly, a number of units and departments have explored establishing stand-alone testing centers, but have yet to find a feasible model. Identifying appropriate existing space has been a challenge, and the costs for new construction and retrofit projects have proven to be prohibitive. In the absence of such facilities, the University has sought to provide other accommodations. We have explored securing access to off-site testing centers at other locations in New Jersey and beyond, and while possible, the logistics of such arrangements render them impractical for use on a large scale. For online and hybrid learners, digital, remote proctoring services (staffed and/or fully automated) can often be the most viable option.

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The Office of Information Technology currently maintains contracts with two remote proctoring vendors, ProctorU and Verificient, but these resources appear to be underutilized. There are, of course, a small number of students and situations unable to benefit from such technology-based solutions, and these will continue to require access to in-person, physical testing facilities. We will continue to explore testing options, as well as track technological advances in this area. By copy of this letter I encourage each of the chancellors to undertake this exploration as well on a local level, as campus-based testing facilities would provide an optimal solution.

I appreciate the time and attention the Senate has devoted to these important items for our students and faculty.

Sincerely,



Robert Barchi

c: Antonio Calcado, Executive Vice President for Strategic Planning and Operations and
Chief Operating Officer
Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, Rutgers University–Newark
Phoebe Haddon, Chancellor, Rutgers University–Camden
Barbara Lee, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Christopher Molloy, Chancellor, Rutgers University–New Brunswick
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