

Standing Committees' Comments and Decisions On Adopting the Proposal to Form a School of Graduate Studies

December 2016

“Yes” Votes:

Academic Standards, Regulations and Admissions Committee
Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee
Instruction, Curricula and Advising Committee
Research, and Graduate and Professional Education Committee
Student Affairs Committee

“No” Votes, and Comments from Chairs:

Budget and Finance Committee votes No.

Comments (from Menahem Spiegel, BFC Chair): Following your request, the Budget and Finance Committee in its meeting Friday 12/9/2016 took a vote regarding the proposed merger between the Graduate School-New Brunswick (GSNB) and the Graduate school of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) into the School of Graduate Studies (SGS).

The result of the vote was:

5 Senators voted in favor of the merger and 11 Senators voted against.

The vote was taken after a long discussion among members of the Committee and with Dean Scotto.

The committee agreed that the proposal for the Graduate School Merger has laudable goals.

The committee noted that the proposed changes fall well short of addressing the underlying financial problems that pose an existential threat the merged entity (SGS) and to graduate education in several important disciplines at Rutgers.

1. Using RCM terminology; the Graduate School-NB (GSNB) is a “cost center” while the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) is a “responsibility center”. The merged School of Graduate Studies (SGS) is currently considered as a “hybrid.” This unclear new financial structure might impose difficulties in resource allocation between the teaching needs and graduate students needs of SGS.

2. Current tuition-related expenses for both in-state and out-of-state graduate students represent a powerful disincentive to recruiting graduate students into research laboratories across the entire Rutgers system.

3. Graduate Tuition costs at Rutgers are higher than at other Big Ten universities, and when faculty are forced to pay for graduate tuition on grants, the costs exceed the NIH and NSF cap on graduate costs that can be charged to grants by tens of thousands of dollars.

In light of these, the Budget and Finance Committee recommends that until the financial issues are resolved, any attempt to reorganize graduate education at Rutgers would be premature.

University Structure and Governance Committee votes No.

Comments (from Jon Oliver, USGC Co-chair): The USGC does not wholly reject the SGS proposal, but rather some aspects of the related process with which the committee has serious concerns, e.g. The related budget is currently unresolved Students were not consulted at any point in the process The name “School of Graduate Studies” diminishes and creates confusion with respect to other graduate-schools within the Rutgers system, specifically “Graduate School – Camden” and “Graduate School – Newark.”

At the 12/11/16 USGC meeting, USGC members and Dean Jerome Kukor discussed member’s concerns regarding creation of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS). After Dean Kukor exited the meeting, further discussion continued among USGC members and ultimately a private-ballot vote was taken on whether to support the creation of SGS. The results of the vote were

4 Votes Yes

8 Votes No

1 Abstain

After the vote, discussion continued regarding the related report that would be forwarded to the Senate Executive Committee. USGC members agreed that the following statement should accompany the results of the vote.

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