



Robert L. Barchi, President

May 9, 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-1207, Support for International Students. I thank the members of the Senate's Research, and Graduate and Professional Education Committee for their work on this important issue; I appreciate the thoroughness of the survey they conducted, their very useful report on the survey findings, and their own thoughts on how best to move forward on key issues.

The Senate report suggests that while international students are generally satisfied with their experience at Rutgers, there are areas where Rutgers needs to improve services in order to enhance that experience. While there is variation in the satisfaction with support and services provided to international scholars and students across our different geographic locations, the survey points to a core set of challenges identified by international students across the university: housing, transportation, and career services. Financial support, academic advising, language issues, childcare services, and access to information are also challenges in some cases. With the exception of language difficulties, these same challenges also surface in satisfaction surveys of all students (domestic and international), so it is clear that these are areas where Rutgers must continue to improve in general.

In response to the extensive list of recommendations in the report related to international student support and services, I reaffirm my administration's ongoing commitment to a diverse and inclusive University. Our growing international population is key to Rutgers' advancement as a global university rich in international research collaborations and educational partnerships. With respect to the more specific operational and policy-related recommendations in the report, including the recommendation to establish an independent panel to review our current organizational structure for serving international students, I am asking the GAIA Centers to take the lead in reviewing and, where appropriate, acting upon these recommendations. As you know, we are in the process of hiring a new Vice President for Global and International Affairs. When that appointment is made, we will make certain that this report is among the first documents that the new Vice President reviews.

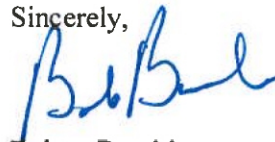
Senate Charge S-1207

May 9, 2016

Page 2

The University is indebted to the members of the University Senate Committee on Research, and Graduate and Professional Education for the useful information and thoughtful recommendations they have provided to guide the University in providing our international students with a rewarding Rutgers experience.

Sincerely,



Robert Barchi

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