



Robert L. Barchi, President

September 27, 2018

Ms. Mary Mickelsen  
Executive Secretary of the Senate  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
ASB III, Suite 110  
Cook/Douglass Campus

Dear Ms. Mickelsen:

I am writing in response to the University Senate's report and recommendations on Charge S-1305, Smoke-Free Rutgers, dated March 2017. I appreciate the thorough review of the policy and recommendations by the Student Affairs Committee regarding policy implementation, enforcement, and revisions. The recommendations and resolution reference several areas which are addressed herein.

The movement of smoking urns away from building entrances has been completed in many locations, and signs are posted at building entrances across all campuses regarding the 30-foot rule. By copy of this letter I am asking Executive Vice President for Strategic Planning and Operations and Chief Operating Officer Tony Calcado to direct facilities managers to implement this recommendation at any location not currently in compliance.

I agree that minimizing exposure to secondhand smoke and designing methods to educate the campus community about the dangers of secondhand smoke are important issues. I am asking the chancellors to convene an appropriate body or group to make recommendations to them on best practices for addressing these matters on their campus.


Regarding the need to promote smoking cessation education for faculty, staff, and students, we have two operations in place to facilitate this. Student Health Services and Health Education offices are tasked with providing outreach and educational programs to students, including programs for smoking cessation. These offices, as well as residence life, student affairs, orientation, student involvement, and other student-serving offices, work to promote these offerings and to direct students to these services on a regular basis throughout the year. Also, each campus has taken additional steps to disseminate resources to students including the use of a campus app, student advisory boards, peer educators, and social media campaigns. University Human Resources provides resources for faculty and staff and can assist in helping employees consider these options as well.

By copy of this letter, I am asking the chancellors and Senior Vice President for Human Resources and Organizational Effectiveness Vivian Fernández to review our efforts to assist members of the Rutgers community in these pursuits.

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With regard to enforcement authority and training, we know that promoting a healthy campus environment and shifting campus culture requires buy-in from all members of the University community. Community standards and peer support are key to creating the change needed. The University Code of Student Conduct has a statement about the violation of any University policy that does allow for non-residential students to be charged with a code of conduct violation if reported. We believe that education is more effective than punitive enforcement measures. This matter will be referred to Executive Vice President for Health Affairs Brian Strom for additional consideration.

Although this report emanated from the Student Affairs Committee, the issues outlined touch all aspects of the University community and will require the input and leadership of several members of my cabinet. Creating and sustaining a healthy learning community is of great importance. I thank the Student Affairs Committee for keeping this issue at the forefront.

Sincerely,  
  
Robert Barchi

- c: Antonio Calcado, Executive Vice President for Strategic Planning and Operations and  
Chief Operating Officer  
Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, Rutgers University–Newark  
Vivian Fernández, Senior Vice President for Human Resources and Organizational Effectiveness  
Phoebe Haddon, Chancellor, Rutgers University–Camden  
Christopher Molloy, Interim Chancellor, Rutgers University–New Brunswick  
Brian Strom, Chancellor, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, and Executive Vice President  
for Health Affairs