

**Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee
Response to Charge S-1808
December 17, 2018**

Charge S-1808:

Code of Student Conduct Policy Review: Review the new University Policy 10.2.11 on the Code of Student Conduct, identify any concerns and, if appropriate, recommend further changes or other courses of action.

Background:

ASRAC's standing charge points to the committee's "responsibility for matters directly related to academic standards, regulations and admissions." In January 2017, this body responded to University Senate Charge S-1609, which examined the University's Academic Integrity code (a code which is housed in the broader Code of Student Conduct, to which Charge S-1808 refers). The Academic Integrity Policy falls rightly under the purview of this committee; the policy on Academic Integrity is a matter "directly related to academic standards," as it establishes an expected level of ethical responsibility for students when it comes to academic pursuits.

Last fall, ASRAC heard testimony from the Director of the Office of Student Conduct regarding the administration of current policies on Academic Integrity, and in its lengthy response made several recommendations, not so much about the policy itself, but about the resources available to make such a policy properly enforceable and fairly administered. It was the strong recommendation of this committee that Academic Integrity needed more resources to do its job efficiently, that the resources dedicated to Academic Integrity at Rutgers University ought to be brought in line with other Big Ten universities, and that ultimately, Academic Integrity ought to be separated from Student Conduct and given an independent office and line of reporting at the University.

President Robert L. Barchi MD, PhD responded to our recommendations in a letter of June 26, 2018, in which he rejected our recommendations in response to Charge S-1714. Our consideration of Charge S-1808 has provided new and significant support for our recommendation that Academic Integrity ought to be separated from Student Conduct and given an independent office and line of reporting at the University.

During the 2018 spring semester, we also learned that a Task Force had been assembled that included members of the New Brunswick Office of Student Conduct, reporting to the Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Academic Affairs in New Brunswick. The report of that Task Force has not been shared with ASRAC. It is our belief that their careful study of the academic integrity arrangements in New Brunswick will lend further support to our separation recommendation.

In July 2018, a revised Code of Student Conduct was approved by the Board of Governors. Charge S-1808 has asked ASRAC to review the entire code of Student Conduct, above and beyond the policy on Academic Integrity. Student Conduct in the dormitories and at campus events does not fall under ASRAC's standing charge.

Discussion/Considerations:

ASRAC reviewed the newly adopted Code of Student Conduct, and agreed that most of its content falls outside the purview of ASRAC, but is of pressing interest to the Student Affairs Committee. Executive Committee guidance to ASRAC from its meeting of Nov 30, 2018 was discussed. ASRAC reaffirms that it did not identify any concerns within its purview when comparing the old and new student conduct policy.

For that part of the charge concerning recommended further changes or other courses of action, there was considerable discussion focusing on the newly assembled ad hoc committee on Academic Integrity. That Committee, assembled and chaired by the Rutgers Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Distinguished Professor Barbara A. Lee JD, PhD, is charged with rewriting the Policy of Academic Integrity for Rutgers-New Brunswick, Rutgers-Camden, Rutgers-Newark, and RBHS. That work has been targeted to be completed by April 2019, a time frame discussed as possibly challenging.

Recommendations:

Given the Committee's background on the Policy for Academic Integrity (see Responses to Charges S-1609 and S-1714), and after discussion, ASRAC makes the following recommendations:

- 1. Reaffirms, after review of Executive Committee guidance from its meeting of November 30, 2018, that ASRAC has reviewed the new University Policy 10.2.11 on Code of Student Conduct and did not identify any concerns within ASRAC's scope of mandate after comparing the old and new student conduct policy.**
- 2. ASRAC emphasizes collegially focusing on the Committee assembled by Rutgers Senior VP Distinguished Professor Barbara A. Lee JD, PhD and chaired by Distinguished Professor Michael Beals, is pleased that two ASRAC members are also on this committee, and welcomes the opportunity for input from ASRAC and its members prior to, during and after policy formulation.**

Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee

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