



RUTGERS

Robert L. Barchi, President

June 3, 2020

Mary Mickelsen
Executive Secretary of the University Senate
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
335 George Street, Suite 1250
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear Mary:

Thank you for your statement on the University's response to COVID-19.

Having dealt with the crisis response, the University is now preparing for the eventual return of students, faculty, and staff to our campuses. As your statement suggests, we are giving paramount consideration to the health and safety of all the members of our community. The COVID-19 Task Force has been working hard—with input from faculty, staff, and students—to develop a comprehensive plan for repopulating our campuses, including all our educational, research, and clinical functions, while taking into consideration the widest array of logistical considerations.

I am attaching for your review a CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT document with details of our evolving plan; please do not distribute this document as it is a work in progress and does not reflect a final determination and should not be construed as such. As the document makes clear, we are working to outline the expectations for every building and space we occupy, including the traffic flow and social distancing requirements in every office, lab, and classroom—among many other public health-related considerations.

We recognize the importance of addressing the psychological and mental health aspects of preparing our community for a return to Rutgers amid a global pandemic, and this is an important component of our planning as well.

As I stated in my previous letter to the community regarding our fall planning, we are deeply aware of the relationship between our graduate students and our research activities, and we will be focused on ensuring timely completion of requirements for our graduate students both in their classwork and in their labs.

I know you are also concerned about personnel issues in regard to the University response. Some of the matters discussed in your statement are the subject of negotiation, so I cannot comment on them specifically. Please know, however, that the university and the labor unions are working together to find

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avenues for addressing the financial challenges at the university. I am confident that our discussions will culminate in agreements that underscore shared commitment to the safety of our faculty, staff, and students alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Barchi", written in a cursive style.

Robert Barchi