

Monday, July 19, 2021 2:51 PM

To: Mary Mickelsen

CC: Andrea Bueschel, Prabhas Moghe, Ann Gould, Christopher Retzko, Nancy Cantor, Antonio Tillis, Francine Conway, Brian Strom

Dear Mary,

I am writing to provide further response on University Senate *Charge A-2021: Re-Examination of the Add-Drop Period During the COVID-19 Crisis and Beyond*. Please extend my gratitude to the Senate Executive Committee for asking the Academic Standards, Regulations and Admissions Committee to consider changes to the Spring 2021 Add-Drop period, and for the committee's prioritization of this charge above other important items on its agenda. I highly appreciate the committee's efforts in soliciting feedback on these items from the student body through the Rutgers University Student Assembly survey to provide a comprehensive consideration of the many impacts of the Add-Drop process.

Following reflection on the details raised in ASRAC's report, and with the input of several parties across the University involved in the Add/Drop process and associated functions, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Prabhas V. Moghe has made a few decisions on the recommendations, which I endorse.

The significance of adjusting the Add-Drop period for the Spring 2021 semester highlighted the inherent challenges we face when factors outside the University's control necessitate emergency adjustments to key semester dates. Moving forward, as per the "special circumstances" process outlined in Section B of University Policy 50.2.2: University Senate – Duties and Powers, the EVPAA will convene a meeting of the campus academic leadership and representative members of the University Senate Executive Committee to expeditiously determine the best course of action for these types of decisions.

While the Add-Drop period recommendations proposed by the Senate were drafted for Spring 2021 semester use, we have considered these for the Fall 2021 semester, and for the future. As we return to a more robust on-campus delivery of our programs in September, we will also revert to the normal, "pre-pandemic" scheduling of the Add-Drop period: nine days for students to add courses, and eight days to drop courses without the issuance of a Withdrawal (W) designation. This information has already been posted to several course registration sites across the University. By copy of this letter, I am asking our chancellors and provosts, both current and beginning in the 2021-22 Academic Year, to confirm this information with their respective registrars and academic units that follow the University calendar.

In addition, we would like the appeals process for the withdrawal from courses beyond the eight-day drop period to remain at the local level, since each academic unit is best poised to manage this for the students within their programs.

Thank you, again, for the review and recommendations on these items of critical importance to our students, faculty, and staff. I look forward to seeing how these decisions work for all involved in the coming semester and for those ahead.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Holloway
President & University Professor

Cc: Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, Rutgers University–Newark Chancellor
Francine Conway, Chancellor-Provost, Rutgers University–New Brunswick
Prabhas Moghe, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Brian Strom, Chancellor, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences
Antonio Tillis, Chancellor, Rutgers University–Camden