

**12 October 2025**

**TO: Taryn Cooper, Manager of the Senate Office and Executive Secretary**

**FROM: Professor Michael Welch, Arts & Sciences, Rutgers, NB**

**RE: Merger of Criminal Justice and Department of Sociology**

**To reiterate, attached is a memo (17 May 2025) that I sent to Executive Dean Wade (and Area Dean Robin Leichenko), concerning the (coerced) merger between Criminal Justice and the Department of Sociology. As of 10 October (2025), I have not received a response from either of them. Per your request, I am providing more developments on the matter.**

**On 24 January (2025) the Criminal Justice faculty met to discuss the proposed merger. That meeting is significant for two reasons. Due to the death of my mother, I contacted Deans Wade and Leichenko to request a postponement of the meeting. My request was denied. Also on the agenda was an election for Director of CJ to which I was a candidate. Not only was I deprived the opportunity to highlight my candidacy but also deprived the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the merger. At that meeting, the majority of the CJ faculty voted NOT to merge with Sociology. Likewise, my sources inform me that the Sociology faculty at their own meeting also voted NOT to merge with Criminal Justice.**

**More recently on 8 October (2025) the CJ faculty received notice to pack their offices by the end of the Fall (2025) semester. Thereafter, their offices will be relocated to the Sociology Department on Douglass Campus. This news is quite distressing because the Spring (2026) semester teaching schedule has already been set. And, CJ courses are scheduled for Livingston Campus. In other words, CJ faculty are being informed that even though their classes will be held on Livingston, they will have to commute again to Douglass Campus for office hours. CJ students, many of whom live on Livingston Campus, will also be expected to commute to Douglass campus to meet with their CJ faculty. Along the way, CJ faculty have been deprived a coherent explanation for all of these disruptive changes.**

**Please review these concerns and share with me your thoughts on the matter.  
Thank you.**