



# RUTGERS

THE STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW JERSEY

Robert L. Barchi, President

October 15, 2014

Mr. Kenneth Swalagin  
University Senate  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
ASB III, Suite 110  
Cook/Douglass Campus

Dear Mr. Swalagin:

I write in response to the Report and Recommendations on Charge S-1405 on Procedures for Selecting Commencement Speakers and Honorary Degree Recipients, as proposed by the Senate Executive Committee on behalf of the University Senate.

I am pleased to accept the recommendation to create a University Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees, the composition and operation of which would be consistent with the Senate's recommendations. Further, I endorse the recommendation to charge the University Senate's University Structure and Governance Committee to work with the University administration to specify the details of the process, including potentially decoupling the awarding of honorary degrees from the selection of commencement speakers. In the meantime, for the next two years, I ask the New Brunswick and RBHS members of the Senate Executive Committee to serve on an interim basis as the Honorary Degree Committee for New Brunswick. And I ask that the Newark and Camden members of the Executive Committee be appointed to the existing Honorary Degree Committees established by their respective Chancellors.

The members of the Executive Committee have my thanks for their attention to this important matter. I look forward to receiving the recommendations developed by the University Structure and Governance Committee detailing the precise operations of the new Senate Committee.

Sincerely,

Robert Barchi

c: Richard L. Edwards, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
and Chancellor, Rutgers University–New Brunswick  
Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, Rutgers University–Newark  
Phoebe Haddon, Chancellor, Rutgers University–Camden  
Leslie Fehrenbach, Secretary of the University