



Robert L. Barchi, President

September 12, 2018

Ms. Mary Mickelsen
University Senate
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Liberty Plaza, Suite 1200
College Avenue Campus

Dear Ms. Mickelsen:

I am writing in response to the University Senate's April 2018 report and recommendations on Charge A-1710, Policy on Centers and Institutes. I thank the members of the Senate's University Structure and Governance Committee for their work on this issue.

As you know, the University-wide Committee on Academic Planning and Review spent considerable time reviewing the current policy and recommended several changes that clarify the approval process, provide for dissolution of a center or institute, and establish a set of guidelines for evaluating centers and institutes. These guidelines have been developed and will reside on the website of the Office of Institutional Research and Academic Planning once the new policy is in place. The guidelines provide the type of template that the Committee's report recommended. With respect to recommendation #5, I believe that the supervisor of the center or institute should determine which individuals will participate in the decision-making process with respect to the creation, renewal, and dissolution of centers and institutes.

With respect to the other recommendations, I believe the guidelines that the University Structure and Governance Committee reviewed provide sufficient assistance to chancellors, deans, and department chairs while allowing for some flexibility with respect to the nature of the proposed (or current) center or institute.

I appreciate the time and attention the Senate has devoted to this issue.

Sincerely,

Robert Barchi

c: Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, Rutgers University–Newark
Phoebe Haddon, Chancellor, Rutgers University–Camden
Christopher Molloy, Interim Chancellor, Rutgers University–New Brunswick
Brian Strom, Chancellor, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences
Barbara Lee, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Robert Heffernan, Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning, and Decision Support