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THE STATE UNIVERSITY
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UNIVERSITY SENATE

Richard L. McCormick, President

December 14, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Swalagin:

I am writing in response to the Resolution CI-1106 – Input to the University Code of Student Conduct, as adopted by the University Senate on October 14, 2011. The resolution recommends that changes to the Code of Student Conduct that would have a “substantial impact” on the Academic Integrity Policy require approval of the chief academic officers of each campus, and further recommends that the composition of the Committee on Student Conduct be modified to include three faculty members appointed by the University Senate Executive Committee.

Although I am aware of the issues raised in your letter concerning the Code of Student Conduct and the Academic Integrity Policy, I am reluctant to address these issues by imposing additional burdensome requirements on the administration of the Code of Student Conduct, such as requiring another level of approvals from multiple administrators and establishing an annual process of appointing faculty members from the University Senate to the Committee on Student Conduct. Instead, I would like to find a simpler solution that would serve the needs of the Academic Integrity Policy without interfering with the system, embodied in the Code of Student Conduct, for handling allegations of non-academic student misconduct.

Given the many differences between the structure and functions of the Code of Student Conduct and the Academic Integrity Policy, it seems reasonable to establish due process procedures for the latter that are best suited to adjudicating allegations of academic misconduct by students and that differ, where appropriate, from the procedures for adjudicating allegations of non-academic student misconduct. Although we have used a common set of due process procedures for alleged academic integrity violations and alleged student conduct violations, there are good reasons to consider establishing separate academic integrity due process procedures. Already there has been movement in this direction with recent revisions to the Code of Student Conduct, and it seems reasonable that this process should continue.

Therefore, I ask that representatives from the University Senate work with representatives from the Office of the Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs, the Chancellor’s Offices in Newark and Camden, the Office of the Vice President for Undergraduate Education, the Office of Student Conduct, and the Office of Senior Vice President and General Counsel to develop due process procedures that conform to the needs of the Academic Integrity Policy. The process for approving the new procedures would be the same as that followed for major changes made to the Academic Integrity Policy—namely, approval by the University Senate and by the Campus Chief Academic Officers, in consultation with their deans.

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I do not believe it necessary to require any change in the composition of the Committee on Student Conduct. However, Vice President for Student Affairs Gregory Blimling has indicated that he plans to increase the number of faculty serving on this committee the next time that appointments are made.

The University Senate has my appreciation for its thoughtful consideration, and I especially thank the members of the Academic Standards, Regulations and Admissions Committee for their work on this important issue.

Sincerely yours,



Richard L. McCormick

- c: Richard Edwards, Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Steven Diner, Chancellor, Rutgers–Newark
- Wendell Pritchett, Chancellor, Rutgers–Camden
- Barry Qualls, Vice President for Undergraduate Education
- Jonathan Alger, Senior Vice President and General Counsel
- Gregory Blimling, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Anne Newman, Director, Office of Student Conduct
- Gregory Jackson, Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Academic Affairs