



Robert L. Barchi, President

September 27, 2018

Ms. Mary Mickelsen
Executive Secretary University Senate
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
ASB III, Suite 110
Cook/Douglass Campus

Dear Ms. Mickelsen:

Please thank the members of the Student Affairs Committee for their thorough examination in response to Charge S-1611: Examination of University Policy on Student Use of Drugs and Alcohol. During the past academic year, student affairs staff at Camden, Newark, and New Brunswick engaged in a rigorous review of the University Code of Student Conduct policy, which affects some of these findings. That review was completed in July, so a complete response was not possible until that process had concluded.

The University has one University Code of Student Conduct (University Policy 10.2.11) and one Policy on Student Use of Drugs and Alcohol (University Policy 10.2.14). The variability described in the report is regarding the residence life and housing living guide, policies, and sanctions. I do agree that it is important for students to have common policies and standards, but I disagree that all sanctions, educational options, and enforcement must also be the same in every case and on every campus. Each campus is unique and has its own community and living and learning mission, just as each campus has different student organization policies and procedures. I do agree that educational sanctions and counseling are always appropriate, and all campuses use these sanctions as the first course of action.

I also want to note that while each campus has guidelines for sanctions and enforcement, each case is considered individually based on the facts and circumstances of the case and the student(s) involved. While Conduct Officers have a range of sanctions from which to choose, sanctions are designed and developed to best address the individual student in each situation. Financial difficulties, a student's ability to find alternative living arrangements, medical amnesty, student and community safety, and student intent are all considered in the review and sanctioning process. All students also have the right to appeal, and that process is clearly explained and outlined for them throughout the Conduct process. Education, fines, suspension, and removing students from housing are all available sanctions at all campuses, and all are used according to the specific circumstances and situation.

The University Code of Student Conduct process and residential life and community standards policies and procedures were combined to make the appeal procedures and options clearer and more consistent for all students, and available on each campus.

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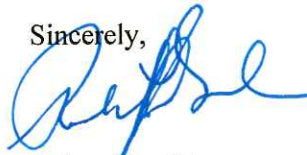
It is commendatory to note that the most recent update to the University Code of Student Conduct process did incorporate several of the recommendations in the response to Charge S-1611 into the revisions of the Code, including:

- Incorporating restorative justice;
- Making process timelines, student rights, appeal procedures, and the medical amnesty policy clearer and easier to understand; and
- Emphasizing the importance of education and outreach in the policy.

As a point of information, the University Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs for Students was reviewed and revised in 2014, after a thorough review by a University committee. During this review, information regarding alcohol at organizational events and updates regarding current laws were included. Medical amnesty from campus conduct violations for alcohol incidents was added to the policy in 2016 and medical amnesty from campus conduct violations for drug incidents was added to the policy in 2018. Should the state laws again change significantly, an additional review would be appropriate.

In summary, I agree that some of the policies were not as clear and easy to understand as they could have been, which has been addressed through the revisions to the University Code of Student Conduct and to the individual housing policies and procedures. I do not agree that every student on every campus should receive the same sanction regardless of individual or campus circumstances. However, I do agree that all students should be treated uniquely and that the sanctions used should be appropriate to that student, that situation and to the goals aligned with that campus.

Sincerely,



Robert Barchi

- c: Mary Beth Daisey, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Rutgers University–Camden
Susan Hamilton, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs–RBHS
Salvador Mena, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Rutgers University–New Brunswick
Corlisse Thomas, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Rutgers University–Newark