



**Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee
Response to Charge S-1808
November 19, 2018**

Charge S-1808:

Code of Student Conduct Policy Review: Review the new University Policy 10.2.11 on the Code of Student Conduct, identify any concerns and, if appropriate, recommend further changes or other courses of action.

Background:

ASRAC's standing charge points to the committee's "responsibility for matters directly related to academic standards, regulations and admissions." In January 2017, this body responded to University Senate Charge S-1609, which examined the University's Academic Integrity code (a code which is housed in the broader Code of Student Conduct, to which Charge S-1808 refers). The Academic Integrity Policy falls rightly under the purview of this committee; the policy on Academic Integrity is a matter "directly related to academic standards" as it establishes an expected level of ethical responsibility for students when it comes to academic pursuits.

Last fall, ASRAC heard testimony from the Director of the Office of Student Conduct regarding the administration of current policies on Academic Integrity, and in its lengthy response made several recommendations, not so much about the policy itself, but about the resources available to make such a policy properly enforceable and fairly administrated. It was the strong recommendation of this committee that Academic Integrity needed more resources to do its job efficiently, that the resources dedicated to Academic Integrity at Rutgers University ought to be brought in line with other Big Ten universities, and that ultimately, Academic Integrity ought to be separated from Student Conduct and given an independent office and line of reporting at the University.

President Barchi responded to our recommendations in a letter of June 26, 2018, in which he rejected our recommendations in response to Charge S-1714. Our consideration of Charge S-1808 has provided new and significant support for our recommendation that Academic Integrity ought to be separated from Student Conduct and given an independent office and line of reporting at the University.

During the 2018 spring semester, we also learned that a Task Force had been assembled that included members of the New Brunswick Office of Student Conduct, reporting to the Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Academic Affairs in New Brunswick. The report of that Task Force has not been shared with ASRAC. It is our belief that their careful study of the academic integrity arrangements in New Brunswick will lend further support to our separation recommendation.

In July 2018, a revised Code of Student Conduct was approved by the Board of Governors, and Charge S-1808 has asked ASRAC to review the entire code of Student Conduct, above and beyond the policy on Academic Integrity. Student Conduct in the dormitories and at campus events does not fall under ASRAC's standing charge.

Discussion/Considerations:

The Committee reviewed the newly adopted Code of Student Conduct, and agreed that most of its content falls outside the purview of ASRAC, but is of pressing interest to the Student Affairs Committee. The Committee also felt that if it made recommendations about student conduct, it would be undermining the message it sent in its response to Charge S-1714 – that Academic Integrity ought to be severed from Student Conduct (a belief the committee still holds).

The remainder of our discussion was on the newly assembled ad hoc committee on Academic Integrity. That Committee is being assembled by Dr. Barbara A. Lee, and its charge will be the rewriting of the Policy of Academic Integrity for Rutgers-New Brunswick, Rutgers-Camden, Rutgers-Newark, and RBHS. That work should be completed by April 2019.

Recommendations:

Given the Committee's background on the Policy for Academic Integrity (see Responses to Charges S-1609 and S-1714), and after discussion, ASRAC makes the following recommendations:

1. With the exception of the Academic Integrity portion of the Code of Student Conduct, ASRAC suggests the charge to review the newly adopted Code of Student Conduct be reassigned to the Student Affairs Committee, as the students should have a chance to comment on the code that governs their behavior on campus.
2. That the Executive Committee might either extend the reporting deadline for the review of the Academic Integrity portion of the Code of Student Conduct until after Dr. Lee's committee has completed its work, or that a new charge be issued once that committee has released its report.
3. That the offices responsible for maintaining and adjudicating the AIP should be separated from Offices of Student Conduct or any other Student Affairs-centered office, and made into stand-alone centers reporting to and supported by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs on each campus. And further that adequate resources be provided to this critically important aspect of academic regulations.
4. That the administration should promptly provide to ASRAC any and all reports of Task Forces or Committees on Academic Integrity.

Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee

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