Dear David, Deepa and Members of the AAUP,

I received your call for clarification of language around Rutgers’ protections for undocumented students and their families. Our community takes a strong position on supporting our students, advocating for the continuation of DACA, maintaining privacy for our students, and ensuring that Rutgers continues to be a safe place for students to live and learn.

In today’s political environment, the term “sanctuary” has become encumbered by vague and shifting definitions. We must be focused on policy and principles, not labels. But make no mistake: by providing a safe space for our students and faculty, regardless of nationality or background, Rutgers is and will always be a sanctuary.

This must be an area where we recognize our common ground and shared vision for our community. To that end, I am happy to provide further clarification of the letter I sent on November 15.

We steadfastly protect the privacy of our student records. In order to clarify our position, let me make clear that Rutgers does not and will not share undocumented student records without a warrant, subpoena, or court order.

Your letter further makes reference to in-state tuition to students who are covered by DACA. We will continue to vigorously advocate for the continuation of DACA. I have publically co-signed a letter through the AAU supporting the continuation of this policy. As a point of clarification, in New Jersey, undocumented students who graduate from New Jersey high schools receive in-state tuition by the state’s Dream Act, not by federal law. As you recall, the University supported this legislation and would oppose any efforts to rescind it. Furthermore, the services of our Immigrant Rights Clinic, run by our law school faculty, are available to all Rutgers students, no matter on which campus they are located.

I hope that you will join me in turning your attention outward—toward Trenton, Washington, D.C., and the nation at large—to advocate for the continuation of policies that will keep our students safe.

Sincerely,

Bob Barchi