

Robert A. Laudicia, Ph.D., Chairman
Board of Governors Committee on Educational Planning and Policy
Secretary of the University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
7 College Ave.
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1260

Dear Dr. Laudicia,

I am forwarding to you a resolution adopted by the Executive Board of the New Jersey Library Association opposing the proposed name change of the Rutgers University School of Communication, Information and Library Studies (SCILS). This action is of grave concern to our members.

The New Jersey Library Association has a long and strong connection with the library program at Rutgers. Our Association was instrumental in the establishment of this program over fifty years ago. We have always been dedicated to its continued development and have watched with pride as it has grown to become one of the leading library programs in the country. We, therefore, believe any change in the name of the school associated with this program must be done with deliberate and careful consideration.

We sincerely question how the elimination of "Library Studies" broadens the mission and goals of the school or the university. The library profession continues to be strong in New Jersey and nationally. However, we fear the elimination of "library studies" by Rutgers from the name of this school sends the unintended message that the University no longer supports this vital program. The Masters in Library and Information Science (MLIS) is the largest graduate program in the school.

The New Jersey Library Association also has serious concerns regarding the process by which this name change was proposed. This action was completely abrupt and unexpected by the library community. We believe that Rutgers, as a state university, has an obligation not only to its faculty but also to its students, alumni and to its community stakeholders when making a major programmatic change. We have read the explanation given by Dean Schement regarding the name change and do not feel he has given a compelling rationale on why it is imperative to make this change at this time. In addition, the Dean first wrote that several members of the library community (including our Association) gave support to this change. We did not. We feel this action also speaks to a failed process regarding this name change. Although we applaud Dean Schement's stated

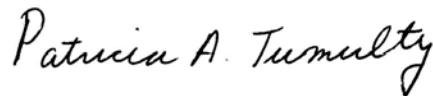
goals to improve the library studies program at the school we have not seen any documentation or long-range plan to support this claim.

In conclusion, the New Jersey Library Association reiterates its strong support of the library program at Rutgers University. We have been proud of its accomplishments. We do, however, strongly oppose the proposed name change. We have not been given a strong justification for this action and do not believe its elimination of “library” from the school’s name strengthens the University’s objectives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi Lynn Cramer".

Heidi L. Cramer, President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia A. Tumulty".

Patricia A. Tumulty, Executive Director