

613 George Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
May 5, 2014

Dr. Robert Barchi
83 Somerset Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1281

Dear Dr. Robert Barchi,

I am writing to express the concerns of members of the Rutgers College Republicans, Eagleton Undergraduate Associates, Greek Life at Rutgers University, and other student organizations of all political ideologies following Condoleezza Rice's decision to withdraw as commencement speaker on May 3, 2014. The decision surprised many and evoked a wide range of responses on the Rutgers University campus, social media, and in the national media. An overwhelmingly number of the students were disappointed in Condoleezza Rice no longer being the commencement speaker after a small minority of the student body and intolerant faculty members at Rutgers University protested loudly over the past month. Additionally, past alumni and I are concerned this may affect the University's billion-dollar fundraising campaign, "Our Rutgers, Our Future".

A university should be a place where free ideas are exchanged and a diversity of opinions are encouraged. Despite the support of the voice of students' on-campus, Rutgers University Student Assembly's (RUSA), and your BOG joint statement, a small minority of the student body protested your decision. Our organization received several complaints from students, as well as forwarded e-mails from faculty encouraging students to publicly denounce Dr. Rice and attend the Teach-In Protest. The e-mails disturbed students as they were from Robert Lake, head of the doctoral program at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and, William Field, the Undergraduate Political Science Program Director. Most students know these professors very well and these emails intimidated students who do not share the opinions of the professors.

As the protests escalated to your office, university property was damaged further frightening students who do not share the opinion of the protestors and preventing them from voicing a counter opinion. After the sit-in and announcement from Dr. Rice on Saturday, Dr. Field even congratulated one of the lead organizers of the protest that allegedly damaged university property. Many students forwarded their concerns to us upon seeing this as it has created a hostile campus environment to see a professor vocally support a protest in which property was destroyed.

There are reports you intend to meet with the protestors on Monday. We encourage you to disavow their actions that led to damaged property and to work towards facilitating a dialogue on campus in which students are not afraid to voice their opinions. We would like to have a meeting with you to express our concerns in the upcoming week about the actions of the past month. In your response to the announcement you noted, "Rutgers University stands fully behind the invitation to Dr. Rice to be our commencement speaker and receive an honorary degree." We hope you stand by your remarks by supporting her and the University publicly during this very controversial time.

Sincerely,



Donald P. Coughlan
Rutgers Student, Eagleton Undergraduate Associate
Chairman, New Jersey College Republicans
(609) 970-8603
donald.coughlan@rutgers.edu.

- Forwarded message -----

From: Robert Lake <rlake@rutgers.edu>

Date: Tue, Apr 15, 2014 at 11:55 AM

Subject: Fwd: TEACH-IN: PROTEST AGAINST HONORING CONDOLEEZZA RICE

To: "PhD_ejb@email.rutgers.edu" <phd_ejb@email.rutgers.edu>,
ppmasters_ejb@email.rutgers.edu, upmasters_ejb@email.rutgers.edu

From: "Meredeth Turshen" <turshen@rutgers.edu>

To: idig@sakai.rutgers.edu, "medgl s14" <medgl_s14@sakai.rutgers.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2014 8:11:38 AM

Subject: TEACH-IN: PROTEST AGAINST HONORING CONDOLEEZZA RICE

Condoleezza Rice helped launch a war on false pretexts and helped authorize torture. Should she be giving our Commencement address? Should we award her an honorary Doctorate of Laws?

TEACHIN IN PROTEST AGAINST HONORING CONDOLEEZZA RICE May 6, 2014

5:30 P.M. – 11:30 P.M.

Student Activities Center

613 George Street

Distinguished speakers will discuss the Iraq war, “enhanced interrogation techniques,” and the meaning of University values

LIVE MUSIC – FOOD & DRINK – VIDEO CLIPS

SPREAD THE WORD, POST THE FLYERS!

Meredeth Turshen, D.Phil.

Professor

E.J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy

Rutgers University

33 Livingston Avenue, Suite 500

New Brunswick, NJ 08901 USA

848-932-2386

turshen@rutgers.edu

<http://policy.rutgers.edu/faculty/turshen.html>



E-mail Sent out on May 2, 2014

William Field

to polisci_majors.

Dear majors and minors:

Most of you know of the controversy that has erupted as a result of the invitation extended to Condoleeza Rice to give the Commencement Address at Rutgers and to receive an honorary doctorate of laws. Many faculty and even more students have signed petitions, joined protests, and occupied offices in Old Queens opposing the invitation and doctorate. Some Rutgers students have been invited to the cable talk show Fox and Friends to discuss student concerns; concerned faculty have organized a teach in here on campus.

I invite you to open the attached flier and to attend the teach in to learn more about why students and faculty are upset. Whether or not you have a position on her appearance, the teach in will be very informative.

The event is May 6 from 6:30-9:30 in the SAC.

Prof. Field

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William Field, PhD
Undergraduate Program Director
Department of Political Science
Hickman 509
848 932-1762
Rutgers, The State University
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Polisci_majors_minors mailing list

Polisci_majors_minors@lists.sas.rutgers.edu

https://lists.sas.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/polisci_majors_minors

Note: The flyer enclosed after the statement by the Rutgers College Republicans was attached to the e-mail from Professor Field

Rutgers College Republican Statement Released on May 3, 2014:

“The Rutgers College Republicans are disappointed by Condoleezza Rice stepping down as Commencement Speaker as a small minority of the student body and intolerant professors continued to protest following RUSA's[Rutgers University Student Assembly] warm invitation to welcome her several weeks ago.

Rather than accept the decision of our student government, the students against her damaged university property and disrupted campus life this past week.

Her released statement shows the humility and class that she demonstrated in her years of public service. We encourage the protestors to learn from her example and to allow an environment on campus where an exchange of ideas can occur.”

Additional Information for Students to Contact Can Be Provided Upon Request to Donald Coughlan at (609) 970-8603 or at donald.coughlan@rutgers.edu

RICE @ RUTGERS ?

TEACH-IN IN PROTEST AGAINST HONORING CONDOLEEZZA RICE

Student Activities Center 613 George Street New Brunswick

May 6, 2014



5:30 P.M.
KEYNOTE ADDRESS

JUMANA MUSA
Human Rights Attorney

Introduced by Professor **JACKSON LEARS**, History, New Brunswick

6:30 - 9:30 P.M.
PANELS

ON TORTURE

- * **Jackson Lears**
History, New Brunswick
- * **Kim Lane Scheppele**
Woodrow Wilson, Princeton University
- * **Alec Walen**
Law, Camden

Moderator : **Peter Klein**
Philosophy, New Brunswick

ON THE IRAQ WAR

- * **David Foglesong**
History, New Brunswick
- * **Charles Häberl**
AMESALL, New Brunswick
- * **Toby Jones**
History, New Brunswick

Moderator: **Deepa Kumar**
Journalism, New Brunswick

ON ACADEMIC VALUES

- * **Norman Glickman**
Bloustein School, New Brunswick
- * **Dorothy Hodgson**
Anthropology, New Brunswick
- * **Samah Selim**
AMESALL, New Brunswick

Moderator: **Ziva Galili**
History, New Brunswick

Live music – food – beverages

The panels will be followed by the screening of excerpts of "Taxi to the Dark Side" and other films, followed by discussion, led by Richard Dienst (English, New Brunswick)