This narrative is based on a presentation by Chris Nowak, representing the ESF Strategic Planning Steering Committee, at the March 2, 2016, Academic Governance meeting. The slide-by-slide text is meant to accompany the Powerpoint presentation made at that meeting. Please see the accompanying PDF file of that Powerpoint via the “Chair’s Corner” near the center of the College’s strategic planning website: www.esf.edu/strategicplan

C. Nowak, March 3, 2016

SLIDE 1 TITLE
Thank you, Kelley, and thanks to Academic Governance and its Executive Committee for this opportunity to present an update to the Vision 2020 Update.

I have two themes for this brief update: 1) definition; and 2) advertisement. I will be defining what it is we have/will have in terms of Update structure and content. And, I will be advertising the release date of the DRAFT Update, the associated website, and the timeline (including information sessions).

SLIDE 2 OUTLINE
We are working on a second internal DRAFT of the Update and have at present a document that follows the outline as show here. NOTE that this outline is very similar in structure to ones the Strategic Planning Steering Committee proposed in November/December of last year. There are 20 separable components of the Update, with most of the text associated with “Academic Directions” (seven of the 40 pages) and “Vision 2020 – Goals Assessment” (14 of the 40 pages) (so, over half of the Update is in these two sets of components). The Goals Assessment section is comprised of seven separate components, one for each of the seven Vision 2020 goals. It is expected that community review of the Update in March and April will focus on these two main areas – academic directions and goals assessment.

SLIDE 3 GENERAL INFO SOURCES
A wide variety of information sources were used over the past five months to construct the Update, with about ¼ of the pages coming directly from the 2003 Vision 2020 document, ¼ of the pages from the 9/15 DRAFT Strategic Plan, and about ½ of the pages – ½ of the Vision 2020 Update – are new, in that the text and ideas presented were not included in Vision 2020, nor were they included in the 9/15 DRAFT strategic plan.

I have presented NEW (“new”) twice – that is not a mistake. There are two types of NEW/”new”: 1) documents that ESF has created over the last decade that are dated but new to what was in Vision 2020 (e.g., Middle States documents, SUNY Excels documents); and 2) truly NEW sources of information that came to us via the 23 Unit and Department reports.
SLIDE 4 KEY DOCUMENTS USED

Fourteen existing documents and 23 new Unit and Department reports (n=37 total ESF documents) were used in developing the *Update*. These documents are listed in various places so they can be accounted for later. All of these, except for Vision 2020 and the 9/15 draft, provided new information.

SLIDE 5 NEW

To repeat: true, new information – that is information that did not appear in 9/15 draft or other College documents – includes the 23 new Unit and Department reports, and the five March 2015 transdisciplinary committees working at the behest of the President on strategic planning.

I have heard of persistent concern that the SPSC was ignoring the strategic planning work done by many committees and people in 2015. Yet, know that the SPSC has had persistent and long-term attention to reviewing and including information from the 2015 planning work.

SLIDE 6 OUTLINE (with SLIDE 5 source listings linked).

In your assessment of the *Update* over the next few months, be attentive to how the March 2015 committee reports, particularly those four reports centered on questions associated with the “environmental grand challenges”, were used to develop about ⅓ of the Academic Directions component. Unit and Department reports were used to aid in the assessment of Vision 2020 goals and targets for degree of achievement, add new targets, and build a portfolio of recent accomplishments. To date, we have accounted for 68 recent accomplishments and initiatives that hallmark the performance and direction of ESF in relationship to its vision, mission and goals. It is new for us to do this, and it is good and revealing (we are good!).

SLIDE 7 TIMELINE

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee will be working with the College community over the next six weeks to finalize our *Vision 2020 Update*. A DRAFT of the *Update* will be made available to the community via the web on Friday, March 11. Community members will be able to comment on that draft via the web. Additionally, we will be hosting four information sessions designed to allow small group discussions on specific sections of the *Vision 2020 Update* with the opportunity for community members to provide individual written feedback. Our timeline has, from its beginning on October 5th, 2015, pointed to providing President Wheeler a final draft of the *Update* in late April. He will then present a FINAL draft *Update* to the Board of Trustees in mid-May. Soon after that, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee disbands (May 24th, or sooner!).

SLIDE 8 WEBSITE

Our strategic planning/updating website has been active, but was recently upgraded with new information consistent with our new work. The website introduces the user to the *Update* work, provides context and background, and makes clear how and when community members can get involved in assessing the *Update*. Additionally, we will have on that website, under a section referenced
as “Chair’s Corner”, information from me as needed – including today’s Powerpoint, accompanying narrative, and two documents you really should read before you assess the Update – these are “Assembly Rules” and “Assembly Methods”. The rules document how we filtered ideas and information for the Update, and the methods are a step-by-step description of how we moved through the Updating process, from October to the present. They are must reads (well, really, the whole website is). Your ability to productively assess the Update is very much based upon being proactive and engaging the process and reading materials.

SLIDE 9 THANK YOU

Thank you for your time and consideration, today. I hope you will afford us more of this – your time and considerations – in your assessment of the Update.

I also want to acknowledge again the dedicated work that the Strategic Planning Steering Committee has put forth to get this Update together for us. See the website for the names of these 17 folks. Share your thoughts and ideas with them, but also give them kudos and “way to go”s for their persistent and positive effort on your/our behalf.

Shown here is the Planning Committee’s group work over the Winter break on four Update components and tasks – vision and mission, academic directions, diversity and inclusiveness, and communication.

SLIDE 10 TEAM!

Here they are again on January 13 (yes, they did go home between the 7th and 13th) carrying on with that baseline work. I appreciate this team of people and how well suited they were (are) for the work of updating Vision 2020. The 18 of us did well, I think, over the last near six months to represent the past, present and future of the College.

As a final note, and with this slide and its title – we recognize that we did NOT do strategic planning – that looms for us in the near future. What we did is Update the Vision 2020 document, which was a visioning document to begin with some classic elements of a strategic plan. As you build your energies and expectations for the Update – please keep this in mind.