State University of New York

College of Environmental Science and Forestry

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 21, 2020

videoconference - 9:00 am

# Minutes

## ATTENDING TRUSTEES:

* Voting Members: Matthew Marko, Chair; John Bartow; Justin Beslity; Linda Brown-Robinson; Vita DeMarchi; William Fisher, Vice Chair; Daniel Fitts; and Rick Fedrizzi
* Ex-Officio: Basil Seggos, DEC Commissioner; Judy Drabicki, representative for the DEC Commissioner; and Kent Syverud, Chancellor, Syracuse University
* Non-voting Members: Edward Wozny, Undergraduate Student representative

## College Personnel in Attendance:

* Joseph Rufo, Secretary to the Board, Officer-in-Charge and CFO and Vice President for Administration; and Ragan Squier, Assistant to the President and Staff Liaison to the Board of Trustees

## Call to Order

Chair Marko called the Special Meeting of the ESF Board of Trustees to order at 9:05 am. He welcomed everyone and reminded the Trustees that the microphones were live and a digital audio recording of this meeting will be posted to the ESF Trustees webpage soon after the meeting. We are participating virtually using the Zoom platform. Chair Marko asked Secretary Rufo to begin roll call for those attending the meeting. With nine voting members of the board present, a quorum was confirmed.

## Welcome and Chairman’s Report

Chairman Marko stated the agenda is short on items, but tall on significance. Today concludes a process that began nearly a year ago. He summarized a timeline of events: April 8th announced to the campus community the search for the 5th president with the search committee fully formed; June 3rd the application process opened; July 29th an update to campus included the announcement that the first round of interviews were underway and outlined a process that would identify final candidates by the end of August. Six candidates were selected as semi-finalists. Three candidates were advanced by the presidential search committee to the ESF Board of Trustees for review. Chair Marko mentioned there was near perfect attendance throughout the process of search committee members, as well as perfect attendance in all of the interviews. We moved with a sense of urgency that the challenges we face called for. Chairman Marko thanked each member individually by announcing the composition of the committee as follows:

* Board of Trustees Reps: Matt Marko (Chair), John Bartow, Vita DeMarchi, and Dan Fitts
* Academic Chair Rep: Lindi Quackenbush
* Faculty Reps: Doug Daley, Melissa Fierke, Jacqueline Frair, Bob Malmsheimer, Chris Nowak, Lemir Teron
* Staff Representative: Susan Sanford
* Student Representative: Melanie Berger
* Alumni Representative: Thayer Miller, President, Alumni Executive Committee
* College Foundation: Ginny Robbins
* Chancellor Designated SUNY Senior Staff: Robert Haelen
* Campus Staff Liaison - Administrative Support (Non-voting): Baylee M. Woods, A special thanks to administrative support, Baylee Woods.

## Motion to Convene in Executive Session

Chair Marko called for an executive session under provisions of section 105 article 7 of the Public Officers Law to discuss personnel matters and consider the recommendations of the Presidential Search Committee. Attendees to include only voting members of the board, ex officios, and Secretary to the Board, Joe Rufo.

**Motion** – Upon the motion of Trustee Fedrizzi, and seconded by Trustee Bartow, it was unanimously;

**APPROVED** that the meeting move to Executive Session.

No discussion.

Trustee DeMarchi publicly thanked Chair Marko for the hours and excellent job of heading the search. Seconded by Trustee Bartow stating Chair Marko represented the college and the trustees exceptionally well.

The vote carries to move into Executive Session at 9:10 am with no opposition or abstentions.

## Return to Public Session

The meeting returned from Executive Session at 10:28 am.

**Motion** – Upon the motion of Trustee Brown-Robinson, seconded by Trustee Fedrizzi, it was

**APPROVED** that the SUNY ESF Board of Trustees advance the three recommended candidates of the Presidential Search Committee to the SUNY Office of the Chancellor for final consideration.

Nine in favor, 0 oppositions, 0 abstentions. Motion passes unanimously.

## Motion to Adjourn

We are at the end of the agenda. The next meeting is September 25, 2020.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ragan Squier.