



State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Board of Trustees Sustainable Finance Committee Meeting
March 20, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.
24 Marshall Hall/Zoom

MINUTES

Voting Members in Attendance:

Chair Bartow, Trustee DeMarchi, Trustee Fedrizzi, Trustee Vera.

Absent: None

College Personnel/Students in Attendance:

Mark Lichtenstein, Board Secretary; Nichole Dougherty. Joanie, Baylee Woods, Lauren LaTray, Amy Brown, Ragan Squire, Lindi Quackenbush, Kitty McCarthy, Seth Thompson, Tyler Dorholt, Sarah Yurka, Aaron Rounds, Ruth Yanai, Jenn Webb. Matt Millea.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcome

Chair Bartow called the meeting of the ESF Board of Trustees Governance Committee to order at 11:00 AM. With four voting members of the Finance Committee present, a quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Agenda Governance Committee Meeting.

Trustee DeMarchi motioned to approve the agenda; Trustee Vera seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the December 5, 2025 Sustainable Finance Committee Meeting.

Trustee DeMarchi motioned to approve the minutes; Trustee Vera seconded. Motion carried.

President Mahoney introduced Amy Brown, Budget Director. Assisting with plan and management of plan. ESF receives monthly Management Reports from SUNY. ESF now has a lot of data.

4. Voluntary Separation Program Update:

33 departures 3.5M, backfilling, NET is 2.5M. Second round is not complete yet. Single digit. 22 staff, 11 faculty. Emphasis on filling faculty positions.

5. Financial Stability Plan Update:

President Mahoney asked Amy Brown and Matt Millea to walk through the plan which will now be amended as needed based on data.

- Reviewed ESF state operating budget:



- Current stability plan approved on September 19, 2025 (reset base year to 24/25)
- Current year serves as budget year, other years are the financial plan
- Direct state tax report has gone up every year because of
- Goal for 25-26 – Spend \$1.26M less than FY 24-25
- Reviewed budget process:
 - Provided an example of monthly management reports
 - Budget includes revenue, personnel numbers, other than personnel services (OTPS)
 - SUNY provides projections of spending based on 3-year historical data
 - RF contracts come to College as negative disbursements, complicates budget
 - ESF has no cash reserves and has to borrow money from SUNY when over-budget.
 - Departments were given half of the allocated budget so spending can be carefully managed.
 - Pcards turned off, Jaegger is being used for purchases to better plan spending.
 - FY 25-26 Purchase deadline will be May 15, 2026.
- Reviewed 5 Year Stability Plan
 - Goal: Ensure the continued, financially sustainable, operation of ESF as New York State's premier R2, Carnegie ranked, leader in Environmental teaching and research.
 - Current plan show a balanced budget by the end of FY26-27.
 - Plan includes:
 - Salary Savings
 - A reduction on scholarships
 - Increased enrollment
- Discussed draft plan updates
 - Athletic Fee and Forest Properties Fee proposals
 - Trustees would like to know when the fee proposals are due to SUNY.

R. Fedrizzi motioned to recommend endorsement of Forest Properties and Athletics fee to full board. V. DeMarchi seconded, all approved.

- Reviewed the annual budget schedule
 - State Budget begins in April, ESF budget is due to SUNY by August 17th.
- Reviewed draft organizational charts.
 - President will have an Executive Cabinet and a Full Cabinet
 - Dean of Student Affairs will report to Provost
 - Marketing will report directly to Executive Director for Enrollment Management and Recruiting.
 - New Executive Director for Strategic Initiatives and Public Information Officer.

A meeting of the Finance Committee will be scheduled in July, after the FY 26-27 budget has been completed, prior to it being submitted to SUNY.



6. **Old Business: None**

7. **New Business: None**

8. **Motion to adjourn:** D. Vera motioned to adjourn, V. DeMarchi seconded. All Approved.
Meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Nichole Dougherty.