

October 13, 2009

Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher
Office of the Chancellor
State University of New York
State University Plaza
353 Broadway
Albany, New York 12246

Dear Chancellor Zimpher:

I am writing to ask for your consideration of a five-year plan which we have developed at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry to guide the establishment and growth of an intercollegiate athletics program for our campus.

The College has offered undergraduate students the opportunity to participate in several intercollegiate club-level sports in recent years, and would like to build upon that experience to move our athletics program to a fully intercollegiate level.   We have been approved for institutional membership in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) to provide a regulatory framework for intercollegiate competition.

The SUNY policy on Intercollegiate Athletics (Document #3000) indicates that the Chancellor is authorized to approve proposals for changes in the level of competition for the athletics program of a state-operated campus if that campus meets provisions for program funding and institutional control.  SUNY-ESF is fully prepared to meet those provisions, as outlined in the enclosed copy of our proposed **Intercollegiate Athletics Plan 2009-14**.

A key component of this plan involves a related request that you consider our proposal to establish a mandatory intercollegiate athletics fee.  The SUNY Policy on Fees, Rentals or Other Charges (Document #7804) indicates that the initial step towards the establishment of an intercollegiate athletics fee is the submission of a proposal to the Chancellor describing the consultative process to be used to seek campus input and to demonstrate campus support for this fee.  I have enclosed a separate document outlining our **proposed consultative process** for your review and approval.

 The development of an intercollegiate athletics program is an important strategic initiative for ESF, which we believe will bring substantial benefits to our students and our College.  Our Board of Trustees, Faculty Governance and Undergraduate Student Association have previously expressed general support for our intercollegiate athletics program, and we will continue to engage them as these more detailed proposals move forward.

 You may of course contact me with any questions you may have about these proposals.  We will look forward to receiving your counsel.

Sincerely,



Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr., Ph.D.
President