



Board of Trustees

*ESF Board of Trustees Meeting
May 11, 2018*

Report of the Board Chairman

When our Board last met in February, my remarks focused on the need to restructure our business model onto a more sustainable path. Much of this work is underway, and I am pleased to report significant progress implementing the *Pursuit of Excellence Plan* has been made in many areas. We will hear about these incredible achievements later in the agenda. Be there no doubt, we have much more work to do, and the issues we face are complex and dynamic, and will require adaptive management to realize success. However, this institution and its people have always risen to meet those challenges.

By now, most everyone is aware that President Wheeler has chosen to step down, effective June 30. Quentin has kept the Board, through frequent communication with me as Chair, informed throughout this process. I know that will continue as we work through the transition in leadership. I am grateful to him, for his years of service to the College. Not once, has his integrity waived, from the moment we met him. Never, was I greeted without an outstretched hand and a smile. Always, a sense of humor, often reminding us to not take ourselves too serious, and that no challenge is so tough that you can't find a good reason to laugh.

On interim leadership, the Chancellor, in consultation with her leadership team and the ESF Board of Trustees, is working to identify candidates for Interim President at ESF. SUNY has been on campus multiple times since our last Board meeting, most notably facilitating a Town Hall meeting on April 26 that was live-streamed across the campus community. We appreciate them being present to listen to concerns and ideas, and to share information regarding the transition. SUNY has welcomed ideas from the campus community about the qualities that they would like in an interim leader. The decision on who will be the interim leader will be made by the Chancellor and SUNY Board. The Interim President will most likely be appointed in June, effective July 1, such that there will be no gap in leadership at the campus after Dr. Wheeler departs. The Interim President will remain in place until a search is completed for the next permanent campus leader.

In addition to continuous interaction with campus Administration regarding ongoing campus matters, as well as meetings with SUNY Executive Leadership team members, including Chancellor Johnson, members of the Board of Trustees have met with members of the Alumni Executive Board, members of the College Foundation, the UUP President, the Emeriti Faculty, USA, GSA, and Academic Governance representatives. From all of these meetings, one thing is certain, the passion for ESF is alive and well and will transcend us all. Thank you to the many dedicated individuals that have pledged their cooperation to the Board of Trustees, forming strong partnerships in support for ESF.

The ESF Board of Trustees will work with the interim leadership and continue to identify ways to implement change while maintaining the best aspects of our culture at ESF. As I have said previously, the Board does not take lightly that much of this change is, by its very nature, disruptive. Regardless of who the President of this College is, we are moving this institution forward.



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As evidence, this Board acknowledges and applauds the recently passed joint USA and GSA resolution supporting ongoing sustainability efforts, specifically the reorganization of Physical Plant and Facilities, the creation of an Energy Conservation, Development, and Controls division, and the creation of a full-time Sustainability Coordinator. This is something that should benefit everyone on campus, improving response time to service requests, maintenance of classrooms, offices, and laboratories, as well as continued bottom line savings. I ask that the Administration provide a written update to the campus at the start of the Fall Semester, providing quantifiable results on progress with these initiatives and an outline of the next steps for continued improvement.

Let me conclude that this Board expects the next leader of this College to continue unfinished business with respect to improving consultation with Faculty, and clarifying roles and responsibilities among Administration and Academic Governance. We expect a renewed commitment from all parties to an atmosphere of respect, forgiveness, and professionalism.

May the best days for ESF lie ahead.

Thank you.

*Matthew J. Marko, Chairman
ESF Board of Trustees*