

ESF Board of Trustees Meeting

# September 25, 2020

## **Chair’s Remarks**

by

**Matthew J. Marko, P.E., BCEE**

On August 21, 2020, the ESF Board of Trustees advanced the three recommended candidates from the Presidential Search Committee to the SUNY Office of the Chancellor for final consideration.  Candidates are being evaluated and we are hopeful SUNY will present a new President for our college in the very near future.  There are many important and time sensitive items awaiting our new leader.

In the meantime, the fall semester is well underway and the Administrative Leadership Team, currently led by the steady hand of Officer-in-Charge Joe Rufo, is diligently working to ensure mission critical functions continue, under the very challenging circumstances we find ourselves in.  Over the summer, board leadership, including Past Chair DeMarchi, myself as Chair, and Vice Chair Fisher, have been meeting bi-weekly with the Administration.  We have been receiving routine updates from Interim Provost Newman, Chief Operating Officer Mahoney, Chief of Staff Lichtenstein and, of course, Joe Rufo.  I want to thank them, and all the faculty and staff that have been diligently preparing for this fall semester.  I also want to thank the students, for their diligence in adhering to social distancing guidelines as we continue to operate through the pandemic.  As of this morning, we have zero active cases of coronavirus, and zero contacts in quarantine.  We should be proud of this accomplishment, but we cannot let our guard down.

I look forward to reports today on college finances; academic planning and enrollment; inclusion, diversity and equity; clean energy master plan; and hearing from our student representatives.

Before we move forward, I would like to mention that in accordance with the ESF Board of Trustees Bylaws, my term as Chairman of this Board will come to an end at the Annual Meeting in 2021.  In anticipation of this transition, I am consulting with trustees and Past Chairs Fitts and DeMarchi to identify nominees to serve as Board Officers.  These nominees will be presented at the December 11, 2020 meeting.

Thank you.