



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

FEBRUARY 25, 2022 AT 9:00 AM

VIRTUAL MEETING

MINUTES

Voting Members in Attendance:

Chair William Fisher, Vice Chair John Bartow, Trustee Linda Brown Robinson, Trustee Dan Fitts, Trustee Oluwole (OJ) McFoy, Trustee Steven (Rick) Fedrizzi, Trustee Vita DeMarchi (*left meeting at 11:31 am*), Trustee Silas Cochran (*joined meeting at 9:22 am*)

Absent: Trustee Steve Sloan

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Trustee Matthew Marko (*Representative of DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos*), Phil Giltner (*Senior Policy Advisor, Representative of Lieutenant Governor, Brian Benjamin*), Melanie Berger (*Graduate Student*)

College Personnel in Attendance:

Joanne Mahoney (*President*), Ragan Squier (*Secretary to the Board*), Kelly Berger, Malika Carter Brenda Greenfield, Danielle Gerhart, Mark Lichtenstein, Matthew Millea, Samuel Mukasa, Gary Scott, Olivia Slobozien, John Stella, Baylee Woods

Prior to the start of the meeting, Chair Fisher took a moment of silence in honor of Troy Eames, who passed away on February 7th.

Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcome

1. Consent Agenda – *Chair Fisher*

- 1.1. Approval of the Minutes of the December 12, 2021 Board Meeting
- 1.2. Personnel Actions Presented for Board Review

Chair Fisher called the meeting of the ESF Board of Trustees to order at 9:06 am. Secretary Squier did roll call. With seven voting Board members in attendance, a quorum was confirmed.

Chair Fisher brought forward an item of new business, which is a proposed resolution.

- Upon recommendation of the faculty, President and Provost, the Board of Trustees recommends that at the May 2022 Commencement, the degree of Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies be conferred posthumously upon Troy I. Eames.
 - Trustee Fedrizzi moved to adopt the motion. Seconded by Trustee McFoy. Chair Fisher asked for a roll call vote. The motion was passed unanimously, 7-0.

RESOLVED the motion to confer a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies to Troy I. Eames posthumously at the May 7, 2022 Commencement is approved as presented.



Chair Fisher called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Bartow so moved. Trustee Fitts seconded. Chair Fisher asked for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

RESOLVED that the items in the consent agenda be approved as presented.

2. Chair's Report – *Chair Fisher*

- Shelby Zangari requested that the College Administration release a statement supporting GSEU's lobbying efforts to secure a budget measure to end graduate employee fees.
- Shelby also requested that the Board of Trustees release a statement by the end of February to support GSEU's lobbying timeline.
- Graham Perner, an ESF Graduate Student, suggested that the BOT work with GSEA to lobby with the NYS legislature. Chair Fisher spoke with Graham and described the regulations governing lobbying with NYS legislature and our bylaws would not give the Board power to lobby.
- Chair Fisher reminded Graham that President Mahoney has taken over leading the lobbying efforts in Albany.
- Chair Fisher said it would not be wise to include a presentation suggesting that we get involved in lobbying in cooperation with the GSEU. Both the college and the GSEU have every right to lobby the NYS legislature and Chair Fisher believes that their success is important for the institution.
- Chair Fisher invited Graham to join the next Sustainable Finance committee to discuss billing deadlines.

3. President's Report – *Joanie Mahoney*

- College Updates
 - Student & Staff updates
 - Diana Jaramillo named New Facilities Director
 - Rebecca Hoda-Kearse promoted to the title of Executive People Officer
 - Jennifer Campos, Environmental Biology student, discovered now-extinct specimen in the Roosevelt Wildlife Collection
 - Kyra LoPicollo, Environmental Biology student, was introduced to ESF in HS and developed a passion for Environmental Science, and is involved in the American Chestnut Project
 - Brittney Hahn, Environmental Biology student, is becoming an expert in egg curation
 - Campus Health Update
 - Delayed spring semester, Booster mandate, Masking mandate (still inside the classroom)
 - Facilities Update (Openings/Re-openings)
 - Marshall Hall: Spring '23, Brave Space: Fall '20, Moon Café: '22, Bray Hall 4th Floor: Summer '22, Library Archives: Summer '22



- Events Update
 - 2/22/22: Tailgate and Basketball Game, Men's Basketball played SUNY Broome (Win 72-61)
 - ESF Earth Week
 - Energy in the 21st Century, April 8th (Rhea Jezer, Symposium Chair)
 - NYSERDA Hearing, April 26th
 - Co-host Environmental Sustainability Conference w/Rockefeller Institute, April 2022
 - STRATUS Conference, May 23rd -25th (Bahram Salehi, ERE, Symposium Chair)
- Enrollment Update
 - 2344 First Year Applications, Up 11%
 - Admitted students have until May 1st to make enrollment decision, we have 97 First-Year deposits for Fall 2022
- Website Update
 - Hope to launch new website in Summer 2022
- Social Media Updates
 - Social Media Campaigns: Faculty Focus, Staff Spotlight, Might Oaks Monday
 - Launching advertising campaign to support enrollment goals
- The Trailhead Café Update
 - Partnership with Morrisville Auxiliary Corporation (MAC) ends in the Summer 2022
 - A new operation will operate both the Moon Café and Trailhead (More to come)
- Top Performer: AASHE Sustainable Campus Index
 - #1 for Doctoral Curriculum, #2 for Public Engagement, #6 for Water Management, #7 for Doctoral Program
- TRUE Certification MOU
- ESF in the News
 - Daily Orange, CityLimits.org, Journal of Forestry, Syracuse University, 9WSYR News, Newsweek, Journal of Forestry, National Parks off Lake Superior Foundation, WRVO/NPR, Local 22/44 News
- Campus Conversations
 - The Podcast, Season 2 in progress
 - Campus Conversations Live!, 2/28/22 on Mental Health with Student Affairs
- Funding Opportunities
 - Governor Hochul's Budget Proposes: Environmental Bond Act \$4B, Environmental Protection Fund \$400M
 - Governor Hochul's Budget Plan includes \$1.1 Billion for Interstate 81 project



4. Provost's Report – *Samuel Mukasa*

- Major topics to share
 - Recent Faculty Development/Accolades
 - Action Planning (Discovery Challenge)
 - Faculty Demographics and Cluster Hiring
 - New Mentoring Programs for Success
 - Faculty: Cohort Career Advising Program (CCAP)
 - Students: ESF Alumni Association Mentors
- Faculty Highlights
 - Dr. Lee Newman named Chair of the Department of Chemistry and is the chair of the search for Dean of the Graduate School
 - Dr. Neal Abrams appointed Interim Director of ESF Open Academy
 - Dr. Bahram Salehi appointment National Deputy Director of the Unmanned Aerial Systems Division for the ASPRS
 - Dr. Steven Shaw, Dr. Lemir Teron, Dr. Bob Malmsheimer, Dr. Doug Burns
 - Faculty and alumnus appointment to the State Climate Impacts Assessment Project
- Discovery Challenge
 - Eight challenges identified grouped to staff issues, campus issues, student issues and faculty issues
 - Recognition of key-research areas (Carbon, Water, Energy, Land)
- New Planning Ideas for ESF
 - Provost Mukasa developed 12 different themes, some of which overlap with what was found in the Discovery Challenge. What actions need to be taken to achieve the ~40 goals?
 - What are we going to prioritize? Some of which are already being focused on (fees, stipends, etc.)
- Faculty Replacement- Cluster Approach
 - Establish interdisciplinary and cross- departmental bridges
 - Build sense of community and belonging by being part of a cohort
 - Proven vehicle to help diversify the faculty
 - Plan to network directly with young scholars, included our own speakers, to invite them to speak
 - Will foster connections with other institutions to identify and track promising candidates
 - We will widen the pool from which we recruit; actively pursue candidates thriving at well-less ranked institutions
- Cohort Career Advising Program
 - Faculty Cohorts hired together to conduct collaborative research in a preselected area
 - Shaping university/college curricula of the future together
 - CCAP- strategy to multiply networks and potentially grow collaborative research
- Student Mentoring and Placement (ESF Alumni Association/Provost Office)
 - Alumni will make their CV's available and make themselves available to mentor students



- Requirement: Exchange of messages once a month with alum and student

5. Student Reports

5.1. Undergraduate – *Trustee Cochran*

- In effort to reduce waste, there will be a digital year book
- Tier system to expand on Diversity Training w/ OIDE office
- Promote new system Engage (promote and sign up for events)
- Looking into Swiped Building Access for Buildings
- Reusable plate program is operational for clubs
- Earth Week's theme is 'Rooted in Community', April 18th – 24th
- USA hosting an Executive Cabinet Meet and Greet, March 9th

5.2. Graduate – *Melanie Berger*

- GSA College Wide Potluck: March 8th
- Syracuse University will no longer be offering concurrent degrees to ESF students (7 students affected)

6. Academic Governance Report – *Gary Scott*

- How does Academic Governance Fit In?
 - Policy of the Board of Trustees: Faculty have obligation to participate significantly in the initiation, development and implementation of the educational program
 - Faculty Involvement in Search Committees
- University Faculty Senate
 - Meets 3 Time a Year on University Wide Issues
- Elsevier Contract
 - SUNY Wide Contract which reduced costs to ESF significantly
- Middle States Virtual Site Visit: April 6, 2022

7. Committee Reports

7.1. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – *Trustees Brown-Robinson and Bartow*

- The Committee wants to follow the Chancellors 25-Point Action Plan
- The Committee will meet every other month
- Form relationships with HBCU's, schools, etc.

7.2. Governance – *Matthew Marko*

- Met on February 9, 2022
 - Reviewed self-evaluation materials, tools to improve communication, tools for organization and coordination as a Board
 - Reviewed Bylaws Update
 - Talked about Committees creating a one-page charter document to inform campus about intended purpose, goals, and structure of each committee
 - Trustee Website updates underway



- Trustees will be set-up with an ESF Email Account

8. New Business

8.1. Bylaws Update

- The Governance Committee has reviewed and recommend to adopt the Bylaws Update
- The Facilities Committee has been formed
 - Duties and Charges

Trustee Fedrizzi made edits to the resolution to add language as follows to the duties and charges statement (amendments in all caps):

- “Facilities
 - Review and make recommendations regarding college facilities, systems and infrastructure, including opportunities for incorporating green, HEATHLY and sustainable technologies, STRATEGIES and materials.”

Trustee Marko made a recommendation to add Item D to make a mention that Article VI, Section 2 (electronic submission) is amended.

- Note: This amendment to Article VI, Section 2 was adopted at the May 14, 2021 Board meeting via board resolution. This amended language was incorporated into the Bylaws distributed in preparation for the February 25, 2022 board meeting.

Chair Fisher asked for a motion to adopt the resolution. Trustee McFoy so moved. Trustee Brown-Robinson seconded. Chair Fisher asked for a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED that the modifications to the Amended Bylaws are approved as presented with the additional language from Trustee Fedrizzi.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Fisher called for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Brown-Robinson so moved and seconded by Trustee Fedrizzi. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Baylee Woods.