



MEMORANDUM

**TO:** University Senate  
**FROM:** Maurie McInnis  
President  
**DATE:** October 5, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** President's Report

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**I. COVID-19 MATTERS**

Below are noteworthy updates and actions related to our COVID-19 efforts:

- **Chancellor Malatras Visits Stony Brook**
  - SUNY Chancellor **Jim Malatras** toured campus on September 24. In a press conference, Chancellor Malatras said he wanted to visit Stony Brook “especially because I want to highlight shining examples of campuses that are doing it well.”
  - It was also announced that Stony Brook will expand its weekly student testing capacity by partnering with SUNY Upstate Medical University to launch pooled surveillance testing for COVID-19. By adding testing for commuter students who are taking at least one class on campus to the weekly testing already in place for resident students, a total of 5,200 students will be tested each week. This allows the University to enhance monitoring, pinpoint the presence of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, prevent outbreaks, and remain open through this unprecedented time.
- **Employee COVID-19 Testing**
  - UUP, CSEA, and PEF have each executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SUNY that requires mandatory COVID-19 testing for its members. As a result, employees represented by these unions who report to campus in person for some or all of their work obligations are required to get tested for COVID-19. Similar to plans for commuter students, pooled testing with saliva tests will begin on October 5 with 500 University employees randomly selected for testing in the first week. Weekly testing will ramp up to include 1500 tests. All information related to COVID-19 testing will be kept confidential and separate from personnel files.
- **SBU COVID-19 Dashboard**
  - Our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) continues to provide pertinent data and will enable us to keep a pulse on where our community stands as the pandemic continues. Our dashboard received an “A” grade from the website “**We Rate COVID Dashboards**,” founded by researchers from major universities including Yale and

Harvard. SBU's dashboard is described as "easy to read" and is highly rated for its frequent updates; data with positive cases and total number of tests; separation of student and employee data; city and county data trends; and the number of students in isolation or quarantine status.

- **Campus ClearApp for Employees**
  - Employee health screenings can be completed easily with the CampusClear App for Faculty and Staff. This just released tool offers a convenient and quick way to complete the mandatory daily health self-screening. Additional information is available here: [Using the CampusClear Self-Screening Health App \(iOS, Android\)](#)
- **Preparing for Winter and Spring 2021**
  - **Winter Term:** Most winter session classes will be offered online, as in years past, with classes running from January 5 - 23. Some classes may be scheduled face-to-face.
  - **Spring Semester:** We will delay the start of the spring semester by one week, with the term beginning on February 1. We have eliminated Spring Break to make up for this time. We anticipate a blend of face-to-face, online, and hybrid classes. Classes with enrollments above 45 students will automatically be delivered online. Generally, classes with enrollments less than 45 will be delivered face-to-face in large rooms to accommodate social distancing (unless other circumstances require online instruction). Some smaller classes may be delivered online or in a hybrid mode that blends face-to-face and online instruction. Instructors will have the opportunity to request exemptions from in-person instruction. During registration, students will be able to see the anticipated mode of course instruction so they can choose to enroll according to their preferences.

## II. LEADERSHIP UPDATES

### Michael Bernstein Steps Down as Provost

**Dr. Michael Bernstein** stepped down as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs on October 1. Michael provided exemplary leadership during critical moments over the last several years. From 2016 through 2019, when Michael initially served as Provost, he spearheaded key initiatives, including successful stewardship of the University's re-accreditation, stabilization of the Academic Affairs budget and successful recruitment for several key academic leadership positions. During his tenure, the University improved services for international students, enhanced efforts to diversify the student body, and increased undergraduate retention and graduation rates.

In August 2019, after President Stanley announced his departure, Michael answered the call of the SUNY Board of Trustees to serve as Stony Brook's Interim President. During the leadership transition and onset of the global pandemic, Michael's steady hand helped the University and Stony Brook Medicine effectively adapt to rapid changes and respond to the health crisis. His efforts were crucial to our planning for the launch of the fall semester during an uncertain and challenging time.

### **Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos Named Interim Provost**

Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) and SUNY Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering, **Fotis Sotiropoulos**, has agreed to serve as Interim Provost until the national search for a provost is successfully completed. He will return to his deanship upon completion of the search for a new provost.

Fotis' established experience in strategic planning and building academic excellence will be a wonderful addition to the team as we consider how best to achieve financial sustainability and develop a roadmap for short-, medium- and long-term strategies to ensure Stony Brook's emergence as a stronger institution. In his five years as Dean of CEAS, he has led an initiative to reimagine engineering education, a model for engineering schools around the nation, and achieved significant growth in research, diversity and student success. Recently, the College launched its new strategic plan, Making Science Fiction Come to Life, a guide for reinventing the future of engineering and applied sciences.

Fotis earned his degree in mechanical engineering from the National Technical University of Athens, his MS in Aerospace Engineering from Penn State University, and his PhD in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Cincinnati. An accomplished scholar, Dean Sotiropoulos has raised over \$35M for research and facility development and renovation. His research has focused on simulation-based engineering science for fluid mechanics, problems in renewable energy, and environmental, biological, and cardiovascular applications. He has authored over 200 peer-reviewed journal papers and book chapters and his research results have been featured on the cover of several prestigious journals.

Prior to joining Stony Brook, Dean Sotiropoulos was the James L. Record Professor of Civil, Environmental and Geo-Engineering; Director of the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory; and Director of the EOLOS wind energy research consortium at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Prior to that, he was on the faculty of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology, with a joint appointment in the G. W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering.

### **Appointment of Rose Martinelli as Vice President for Strategic Initiatives**

**Rosemaria Martinelli** has been appointed Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, effective October 1. Rose will provide leadership and facilitate progress on a core set of strategic initiatives and campus-wide projects, and will oversee the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness. She will fill the position long held by **Matt Whelan**, who left in June, and will serve as a member of our executive leadership team. Rose is joining us at a pivotal moment. Much of her initial focus will be on guiding and supporting the next phase of our work to achieve financial sustainability – the Strategic Budget Initiative. Rose's strong experience leading complex efforts and fostering campus-wide dialogue will be instrumental as we embark on our path to long-term financial sustainability.

With an MBA from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business and more than thirty years of experience in higher education and higher education consulting, serving both public and private institutions, Rose brings a special blend of knowledge and expertise to help us navigate the challenges and opportunities facing higher education in 2020. She has held a variety of leadership

roles, including as my chief of staff when I served as executive vice president and provost at the University of Texas at Austin, so I have seen her effective leadership and strategic thinking firsthand. She also served as senior director at Huron Consulting Group in the Strategy and Operations practice and, before that, as associate dean at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

### **Rob Kukta Appointed Acting Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences**

**Dr. Rob Kukta**, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) Senior Associate Dean for Education and Innovation Professor, has been appointed Acting Dean of CEAS. Rob will serve in this role until a permanent Provost is identified, at which time, Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos will return to his position as Dean of CEAS. Rob has been a key member of CEAS senior leadership for the last five years. Prior to serving as Senior Associate Dean for Education and Innovation, he was Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education. In those roles, Rob led the establishment of the Vertical Integrated Projects (VIP) program, which is now one of the largest among the 36 such programs around the world. He is also a strong advocate for the expansion of experiential learning opportunities at Stony Brook. Rob was crucial in the establishment of the Global Innovation Field School at the Turkana Basin, the BeLocalGroup and Centre ValBio partnership in Madagascar, and the CEAS Corporate Partners Program.

In addition to stewarding several academic initiatives, Rob plays a critical role in the educational and business operations of CEAS. He led the recent successful ABET accreditation of CEAS programs, as well as the development of the CEAS Strategic Plan. Rob was also instrumental in increasing CEAS 4-year graduation rates to over 66%. He has worked closely with the College finance staff to enhance operational efficiency, develop robust predictive models, and balance conflicting constraints in a difficult fiscal environment. Rob has been a faculty member at Stony Brook for 21 years.

### **III. STRATEGIC BUDGET INITIATIVE**

We have shared detailed information about the budget challenges facing Stony Brook University, including the short-term financial impact of COVID-19, as well as some of the systemic longer-term trends that we must address in the years ahead. Nearly 1,700 faculty and staff joined a series of virtual campus conversations to discuss these issues in more detail, and many more have visited the Achieving Financial Sustainability website. It has been heartening to see members of our community greet these challenges with a renewed sense of commitment, collegiality and enthusiasm to build on the excellence of Stony Brook.

As I noted over the summer, our next step on our path to achieving financial sustainability is to engage in a campus-wide strategic budget initiative. I recently announced the formation of the task forces that will work on this effort and appreciate those who have already stepped up to help to guide this effort. While we will continue to share additional details regarding our budget, at this time I'd like to provide some more information about the next step in our path to Achieving Financial Sustainability — our Strategic Budget Initiative. Its goals are to:

- Explore opportunities to strengthen and focus our research endeavors and encourage additional interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation.
- Identify ways to more closely integrate the Hospital and clinical practices with our academic campus.
- Analyze how our academic programs can better meet evolving needs; provide new opportunities; and support our diversity, equity and inclusion goals.
- Remove unnecessary duplication, better integrate our programs and provide best-in-class operational support as one campus.
- Evaluate ways to scale the support for the wide array of our cultural and athletic programs on campus while better utilizing the resources and facilities available.

These are ambitious goals. They will involve a profound, collaborative and critical engagement across our community. The Strategic Budget Initiative will be powered by the work of five focused task forces:

- Research and Innovation
- Stony Brook Medicine
- Academic Portfolio
- Operations Alignment
- Optimizing Campus Cultural, Athletic and Facilities Resources

These distinct task forces will create issue-specific working groups as necessary to support their work, based on their prioritization and identification of opportunities. A Financial Sustainability Steering Committee will coordinate and support their efforts. Led by our new Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, **Rose Martinelli**, the steering committee will include, among others, representatives from each task force. In addition, members of a Technical Support Group will serve as expert resources to all of the groups.

Much more detailed and technical information can be found on the Achieving Financial Sustainability website, including the initial scope for each task force, the focus of the working groups, a high-level project plan and the leadership of each task force. This will be updated frequently as the various task forces embark on their missions, and I am committed to sharing key developments and updates with you along the way as progress is made.

As I've said earlier in this process, we can't rely on short-term, stopgap measures to solve long-term challenges. We need to be strategic, open and future-focused. I am confident that we are equal to this task – because I believe in the strength and ingenuity of our community and have seen our demonstrated power of partnership. Through a shared understanding of the challenges we face, a candid and inclusive approach to strategy, and a willingness to challenge our assumptions and look beyond the status quo, Stony Brook University will emerge from this process stronger – well-positioned and able to seize the opportunities that this endeavor will reveal.

#### **IV. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE**

Since the start of the 2021 fiscal year, \$3.5 million has been generously pledged or donated by 1,400 donors investing in our students, our faculty/staff, and our patients to elevate Stony Brook's

extraordinary strengths in research, medicine, technology, engineering, arts, the humanities and social sciences. Generous contributions since the last update include:

- \$125,000 toward the College of Business to support a recovery program for local businesses.
- \$115,000 for the Center for Changing Systems of Power.
- An additional \$43,000 raised through the Keep Our Students Stony Brook Strong Crowdfunding Campaign, a continuation of the fundraising efforts for the many Stony Brook students who are still facing very real crises due to the pandemic.

## V. **BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Launch of BNL Collider Project**

In January, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced the selection of Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) as the site for a planned major new nuclear physics research facility. Eight months later, DOE Undersecretary for Science **Paul Dabbar**, myself, leaders from BNL, Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, and elected officials from New York State and Virginia, commemorated the start of the Electron-Ion Collider (EIC) project. The event was an opportunity for in-person and virtual speakers to voice their support for this one-of-a-kind nuclear physics research facility, which will be built by a worldwide collaboration of physicists over the next decade. The 2.4-mile-circumference particle collider will act as a high-precision sub-atomic “microscope” for exploring the innermost three-dimensional structures of protons and larger atomic nuclei. With a proposed budget in the range of ~\$1.6-2.6 billion from DOE’s Office of Science and \$100 million from New York State, the project will draw on expertise from throughout the DOE complex and at universities and laboratories around the world.

### **Quantum Information Science (QIS) Research Center**

The DOE Office of Science has selected Brookhaven National Laboratory to lead one of five National Quantum Information Science (QIS) Research Centers. Supporting the National Quantum Initiative Act, these interdisciplinary, multi-institutional centers will facilitate the advancement of QIS technology. Realizing the full potential of quantum-based applications in computing, communication, and sensing will benefit national security, economic competitiveness, and leadership in scientific discovery. Brookhaven Lab will lead the co-design Center for Quantum Advantage (C2QA), which will focus on quantum computing. Comprising several national labs, research centers, universities, and industry, the C2QA team will build the fundamental tools necessary for the United States to create quantum computers that provide a true advantage over their classical counterparts. World-leading experts in QIS, materials science, computer science, and theory will work together to resolve performance issues with today’s quantum computers by simultaneously designing software and hardware (co-design). Their goal is to achieve quantum advantage in computations for high-energy and nuclear physics, chemistry, materials science, condensed matter physics, and other fields. Total planned funding for the center is \$115 million over five years, with \$15 million in Fiscal 2020 dollars and outyear funding contingent on congressional appropriations.

## VI. UNIVERSITY ACCOLADES

### **Stony Brook Ranks High in Times Higher Education World Survey**

In the prestigious 2021 World University Rankings, SBU was ranked No. 301-350 globally, No. 82 in the US overall and No. 48 among US public universities. The list includes more than 15,000 universities across 93 countries and regions based on 13 calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. Performance indicators are grouped into five areas: teaching (the learning environment); research (volume, income and reputation); citations (research influence); international outlook (staff, students and research); and industry income (knowledge transfer). SBU showed special strength in the areas of international outlook, in which it ranked No. 281 globally, and citations, ranking No. 290 worldwide.

### **SBU Again Ranked in Top 100 by U.S. News**

Stony Brook University is once again ranked within the top 100 among US colleges and universities, improving to No. 88 nationwide, and ranks as No. 34 among public universities — a jump of five places — according to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2021 Best Colleges. The University was ranked No. 29 overall in social mobility and No. 69 for student excellence. Stony Brook's average six-year graduation rate of 76 percent outperformed the predicted graduation rate by 9 percentage points. In overall rankings, Stony Brook finished in a six-way tie with Binghamton University, Colorado School of Mines, University at Buffalo, UC Riverside and University of Iowa.

### **Stony Brook Recognized for Commitment to Quality Heart Failure Care**

For the second consecutive year, Stony Brook University Hospital has received the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment to ensuring heart failure patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines founded in the latest scientific evidence. The goal is speeding recovery and reducing hospital readmissions for heart failure patients. Stony Brook earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of heart failure patients at a set level for a designated period.

### **SBU Designated an Elite Leader Campus by The Andrew Goodman Foundation**

On May 15, Stony Brook University was recognized by The Andrew Goodman Foundation (AGF) as one of just five Leader Campuses within its national, nonpartisan Andrew Goodman Vote Everywhere Network that includes more than 70 college campuses across the United States. The AGF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that works to increase student voter participation on college and university campuses across the nation. Between 2012 and 2016, SBU increased its eligible student voting rate from 43.2 percent to 53.2 percent in presidential elections, with much higher goals for student voting in 2020. These impressive results are due to the sophisticated voter registration, education and mobilization efforts led by the University's Center for Civic Justice. The Center also developed a nationally renowned student orientation voter registration model and has registered more than 25,000 students to vote, establishing itself as one of the highest achieving programs in

the Andrew Goodman Vote Everywhere Network.

## VII. INDIVIDUAL ACCOLADES

- **Rouven Essig**, associate professor in the C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics (YITP) and Department of Physics and Astronomy in the College of Arts and Sciences, has been named a recipient of the New Horizons in Physics Prize by the Breakthrough Prize Foundation. Essig is recognized along with three colleagues from other institutions for “advances in the detection of sub-GeV dark matter especially in regards to the SENSEI experiment.” Essig is a co-spokesperson of the SENSEI (Sub-Electron Noise Skipper CCD Experimental Instrument) Collaboration, a dark matter direct-detection experiment with unprecedented sensitivity to several types of dark matter particles including dark-photons and axion-like particles.
- **Eszter Boros**, assistant professor in the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Chemistry, was named a 2020 Moore Inventor Fellow by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. The fellowship supports scientist-inventors who create new tools and technologies with a high potential to accelerate progress in the foundation’s areas of interest: scientific discovery, environmental conservation and patient care. Boros was nominated for the fellowship based on the commercial potential of her research, combining a radioactive targeted molecular probe and therapeutic that has the potential to provide pre-operative nuclear imaging and subsequent radiotherapeutic intervention for incurable prostate cancer.
- **Kedar Kirane**, assistant professor in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences’ Department of Mechanical Engineering, has received the prestigious 2020 American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) ORR Early Career Award for his research on constitutive modeling of fatigue failures in engineering structures made of concrete and polycrystalline Titanium alloys. The ASME ORR Early Career Award was established in 2004 to recognize early-career research excellence in the areas of experimental, computational, or theoretical fatigue, fracture, or creep.
- **Jason Trelewicz**, associate professor in the Department of Materials Science and Chemical Engineering, has received three awards totaling \$1.89 million to support his research on advanced materials for carbon-neutral energy technologies and additive metal manufacturing. Trelewicz has received \$950,000 from the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science Basic Energy Sciences Program for the study of fundamental irradiation effects in a unique class of stabilized nano-alloys, which hold promise as high-performance structural materials for next-generation nuclear technologies. He has also received \$482,000 as an augmentation to his current ARPA-E award from June 2019. This project was originally funded at \$2.14 million, but expanded through this augmentation to allow the project team, including SBU Co-PIs **Lance Snead** and **David Sprouster**, to scale manufacturing of the materials and understand their stability in a reactor environment. In addition, he has been awarded \$460,000 for tailoring performance in additively manufactured stainless steels from the Office of Naval Research.
- Four Stony Brook University graduate students have been selected for the BNL 2020 Dr. Mow Shiah Lin Scholarship:
  - **Erwei Huang**, Advisor Dr. Ping Liu, Brookhaven National Laboratory
  - **Struti Iyer**, Advisor Dr. W. Richard McCombie, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory



- **Bingchen Li**, Advisor Dr. Erwin London, Stony Brook University
- **Sha Tan**, Advisor Dr. Xiao-Qing Yang, Brookhaven National Laboratory

## VIII. ZHANG FAMILY ENDOWED CHAIRS IN RENAISSANCE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**David Thanassi**, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Microbiology and Immunology in the Renaissance School of Medicine, and **Qingping Yao**, MD, PhD, chief of the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, were formally invested as the Zhang Family Endowed Chair in Microbiology and Immunology and the Zhang Family Endowed Chair in Rheumatology, respectively. The chairs were endowed by **Huayi Zhang**, PhD and **Siuling Zhang**, on September 17 at a virtual investiture ceremony.

As director for the Center for Infectious Diseases and the Laboratory for Comparative Medicine at Stony Brook University and professor and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology in the Renaissance School of Medicine, Professor David Thanassi is a leading expert in investigating how bacteria cause disease. Dr. Qingping Yao is a widely regarded expert in the study of systemic inflammatory and immunologic diseases. He specializes in rheumatology and focuses his care for patients with autoinflammatory diseases, including periodic fever syndromes, while pursuing the clinical and translational study of such diseases. Among his significant contributions, Dr. Yao discovered a previously uncharacterized disease, the eponymously named Yao Syndrome.

## IX. FALL ENROLLMENT

A total of 26,782 students were registered at the end of Day 15 in fall 2020, 32 fewer than last year at the same point in the term. The undergraduate headcount enrollment of 18,010 students represents record undergraduate enrollment for Stony Brook, with retention of continuing undergraduates driving this increase of 101 students over fall 2019. Statistics in this report represent a preliminary release of official statistics for fall 2020, and remain preliminary pending audit and review. The size of the entering freshman class in fall 2020 is 3,322, 50 smaller than fall 2019, but this number does not include an additional 106 new freshmen in study abroad arrangements, which results in a total freshman class of 3,428. These students will count in retention and graduation rate calculations in subsequent years. Compared to fall 2019, the following changes were observed by area:

- +121 West Campus undergraduates
- -229 Graduate School (West, HSC, Southampton)
- +84 School of Professional Development
- +32 East Campus/HSC
- +42 Southampton location

## X. ATHLETICS UPDATE

- All Stony Brook teams are currently training in accordance with NCAA, state and local guidelines.
- Basketball season will now begin on November 25 after the NCAA Division I Board of Directors approved a series of recommendations regarding return to competition for

basketball, as well as for fall sports that were postponed to spring. Originally scheduled to begin on November 10, basketball season was pushed back two weeks as most campuses will move to distance learning after the Thanksgiving holiday.

- The Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) approved a six-game conference football schedule starting on March 6, with the ability to play an additional two non-conference games prior to that date.
- Women's lacrosse was selected as the preseason No. 5 team in the nation by Inside Lacrosse.