



State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Board of Trustees Meeting

December 5, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.
24 Marshall Hall & Livestream

MINUTES

Voting Members in Attendance:

Chair John Bartow, Vice Chair Rick Fedrizzi, Trustee Linda Brown-Robinson, Trustee Vita DeMarchi, Trustee Daniel Fitts, Trustee Stephen Sloan (virtual), Trustee Daniel Vera.

Absent: None.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Emily Friden, Dereth Glance.

College Personnel/Students/Public in Attendance:

Nichole Dougherty, Emily Friden, Brenda Greenfield, Joanie Mahoney, Kitty McCarthy, Matt Millea, Lindi Quackenbush, Aaron Rounds, Ragan Squier, Tom Squires, Seth Thompson, Jennifer Webb, Baylee Woods, Ruth Yanai. Mark Driscoll, Sue Fassler, Jennifer Goff, Katherine Hobbs, Sabrina Horrack, Jason Kohlbrenner, Matthew Krush, Michele McNeill, Lee Newman, Liz Parsons, Leslie Rutkowski, Adam Scalisi, Matt Smith, Bryan Smith, Steve Teale, Erin Tochelli, Sarah Yurka. Robert MacGregor, Rustan Petrela, and Jill Rahn.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcome

Chair Bartow called the meeting of the ESF Board of Trustees to order at 10:39 a.m. Secretary Lichtenstein took roll call and confirmed a quorum with six voting trustees in attendance in person and one voting trustee participating from a location shared with the public in advance.

2. Approval of Agenda – Chair Bartow noted that the board will amend the agenda to add the consideration for executive session as item number eleven. Trustee Demarchi motioned to approve the agenda as amended, Trustee Fedrizzi seconded, all approved.

Chair Bartow noted that sabbatical leave reports were provided for review but do not require any action, he also noted that there is no longer a December graduation but that the December candidates for degree are still provided for approval by the Board of Trustees.

3. Consent Agenda – Chair Bartow presented the consent agenda items as follows:



- Approval of the Minutes of the September 18, 2025, Board Meeting.
- Personnel Actions Presented for Board Review.
- Candidates for Graduation – December 2025

Trustee Brown-Robinson motioned to approve the consent agenda, Trustee Fedrizzi seconded. All approved.

4. Chair's Report – Chair Bartow

- Great fall semester.
- Men's and Women's Cross Country teams were national champions this fall.
- Chair Bartow participated in the following:
 - ACT Conference (along with Trustee DeMarchi and Secretary Lichtenstein).
 - Very worthwhile.
 - ACT is conducting monthly sessions.
 - 2026 date of ACT Conference will be distributed in January.
 - SUNY is focused on the importance of the campus Board of Trustees and College Councils.
 - Mighty Oaks Student Association townhall, committed to spring MOSA and GSA.
 - Forest Properties Advisory Council has been meeting and will keep meeting.
 - Meeting with Trustee Brown-Robinson and Chief Diversity Officer Seth Thompson.
- Next meeting March 20th.

5. Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee:** Discussed the fiscal stability plan and voluntary separation program. Will receive reports as activities occur, campus will be engaged to the fullest extent possible. The website will be updated. Chair Bartow or President Mahoney can be contacted for updates. If there are decisions needed by the Board a special meeting will be scheduled.
- **Facilities:** Chair Fedrizzi, has not met but 3 items.
 - I-81 Update
 - Construction Contract 5 Colvin to Burt Street
 - Northbound traffic moved to southbound lanes
 - Mass excavation
 - Future business loop 81, highway comes down.
 - Railroad, Fineview and Renwick are gone.
 - Train moved to temp alignment by end of 2026.
 - April-October 2026 round about at van buren closed between almost and Irving: detour up Adams and down Irving – Irving becomes 1 way.
 - 2027 viaduct down, when we start Illick.
 - Standart becomes 1 way.
 - Stadium Place 2 way to 1 way, will change to all 2 way.
- **Remote Properties**



- Reviewed draft living document of committees.
 - Regional council of campuses
 - Forest Properties Advisory Council

Trustee Fedrizzi noted there will be a workshop to presentation on capital projects in the spring. D. Glance would like to participate and would like to see a map of the properties and budgets associated with the remote properties.

6. President's Report:

- Reflections:
 - Bourbon Barrel Maple Syrup produced by ESF Forest Properties
 - Wolf Research
 - SUNY BOT chair and member visited during SUNY Faculty Senate
 - Chancellor and President did media interviews.
 - Chairman Tisch wanted to hear good news, visit was not related to stability planning.
 - Students under impression they weren't allowed to discuss stability plan.
 - Criticism of visit – President Mahoney felt bad.
 - Feinstone Awards – Mayor Ben Walsh and Philip Bousquet were honorees.
 - President guest hosted a 3-hour long radio show – turned into marketing for ESF, featured faculty.
 - Mariann ranger school
 - Paul Crovella construction management
 - Rehabbed and reopened Fire Tower at Goodnow Mt. at Newcomb Campus, hiked with Media.
 - SUNY Rated Top Performer in 2025 Sustainable Campus Index
- Retention & Enrollment:
 - Student retention data council
 - Provided 2025/2024 enrollment comparison.
 - Spring 2026 Enrollment
 - Fall 2026 as of 12/1 Applications and Admits
 - On the spot acceptances
 - Fall student targets: 425 first-year, 200 transfer.
 - ESF had a goal to be the first school to accept, large percentage of students accepts their first offer.
- Budget
 - Reviewed revenue compared to previous three years.
 - Provided a voluntary separation program Update.
 - College-wide stability planning committee, President recommended areas of focus:
- Upcoming Events
 - Jan 8th in Service.

7. Student Reports

7.1. MOSA Report – Daniel Vera



- Updates:
 - Livestreaming general assembly meeting and events
- Reviewed MOSA advocacy.
 - Transparency, Communication. Strategic Advocacy. Working together.
 - Stability Planning
 - Albany Advocacy Day
 - Creative Solutions to support the institution

Next Semester

- Campus composting cab for off-campus students
- Club storage solutions.
- General Elections
- Increase health access.
- Involvement in Construction and Renovation

D. Glance asked about ESF's focus on health and specifically mental health. ESF has good counseling service, good mental health, need better solutions for physical health. Timelycare is available for virtual appointments and ESF pays for Uber to Wellnow. Had contract with Crouse, ESF was working on a MOU but could not get agreements on preferential treatment – NAPPI Center declined.

7.2. Graduate Student Association Report – Emily Friden

- Fall Semester Recap
 - Welcome (back) TG
 - EDGE – Professional Events
 - GSA Day
 - Hobby Hang
 - SUNY SA
 - Grants and Awards
- Spring Semester:
 - Edge Events
 - Town Hall – Jan 22, 2026
 - CNY Conference – Research for Resiliency: Uniting in Space and Time
 - March 27 and 28, 2026
 - Include undgrads, Lemoyne, Syracuse, OCC
 - Hope to extend to Cornell, Oswego to go beyond Syracuse area.
 - Welcome (back) TG
 - Early spring 2026
- Grants and Awards
 - New cycle, single call
 - Better alignment with fiscal year
 - Projected growth 86% increase in applications: GA Cuts are increasing need for funding.
 - Travel, Prof Development, Research
 - Final Credit and Capstone – Increase budget to fund 10 students, formerly two.
- Survey 4.04/5 overall satisfaction
 - Ease of finding info on events, funding, initiatives, lower score



- Grievances recap.
- ESF Admin and Faculty
 - Thanked administration for increased communication and transparency.
 - Not much changes on admin support shortages, GA Cuts and Workload, Clarity on Roles and Expectations (RA)

D. Glance noted that the DEC would like to help and would be very interested in the theme and sharing with the Chief Resiliency Officer and Commissioner.

8. Academic Governance Report – Aaron Rounds/Ruth Yanai

- Surge in Academic Governance since last BOT Meeting
- Formalizing a committee requires change in Bylaws.
- Started two Ad-Hoc Committees
 - ESF AI Council
 - Stability Planning – Check Slide for Purpose (and President's Slide). Current Contact: Matt Smith, until co-chairs are identified.
- ESF AI Council – Check slide for purpose
 - Faculty Concerned on AI
- Both are open to all on campus, not necessary to be a member of AG.

Bartow thanked AG for work and stability planning committee, hopes work happens quickly with looming deadlines.

9. Old Business:

9.1. Board Vacancies.

Letter directly to Governor. Expired term, continue to serve. Three vacancies.
Trustee DeMarchi provided bylaws.

10. New Business:

10.1. UUP Address to the Board – Matt Smith

- Advocacy events – ESF specific and established advocacy day (2/23 and 2/24)
 - ESF has largest contingency, Student, faculty, staff, trustees. Will send info. To N. Dougherty to share with Board.
- Questions from stabilization Planning Committee have been asked for a long time, could have been discussed earlier. Need priorities, plans, etc.
- Encouraged Trustees to be involved in meetings, committees, etc.
- Community desire to work together.
- Software cannot replace people – cost somewhere else, may not.
- Role to protect jobs of people.
- Encouraging special meeting of AGEC to finalize the committee.

10.2. Mark Driscoll is active on UUP, serves as grievance chair but noted he was not speaking as in that role, but on behalf of himself.

- ESF needs to work together. SUNY needs to better fund ESF.
- Concern of loss of graduate students and loss of Carnegie ranking. Increase research



assistants, do not do TA work that GAs do.

- SUNY estimates reduction in in-resident graduate students – PhD Students. C
- Can't afford to lose in resident PhD students.
- Reduction in GAs, increase in reduction. \$ for graders,
- GA and Tas do the same job duties, do not receive benefits, creating an equity issue.
- Concerned about an Increase in teaching for faculty as we lose TAs etc.
 - Less papers, less grants, less graduate students.
 - Lose Carnegie ranking, then we are no different than other 4-year colleges.

11. Consideration of Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing employment history of individuals. Trustee DeMarchi motioned, Trustee Brown-Robinson seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all in approval.

12. Adjournment: Trustee Fedrizzi motioned to adjourn. Trustee Fitts seconded. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nichole Dougherty.