

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

FROM: Michael A. Bernstein
Interim President

DATE: December 2, 2019

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. DIVERSITY INITIATIVES & ACCOLADES**Update to the Stony Brook Plan for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion**

Since 2016, the Stony Brook University community has worked to achieve the goals established in the [Plan for Equity, Inclusion & Diversity](#). This year's [implementation plan](#) includes a significant expansion of major initiatives. These [investments](#) help to recruit and retain students, staff, and faculty, as well as improve the lived experience on campus and encourage engagement with our local communities. They also enrich the research, academic, and healthcare missions of our University and hospital network. In addition to our updated implementation plan, our enhanced Diversity Plan [Advisory Committee](#) includes the following working groups to advise senior leadership and support this year's funded initiatives:

1. Faculty Diversity Infrastructure/PRODiG
2. Human Resources
3. Student Inclusion Leadership Council
4. Community Task Force
5. Communications
6. Assessment and Accountability
7. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Education and Instruction

The Diversity at Stony Brook [website](#) will continue to provide information regarding the Plan, [events](#), and [news](#). I encourage you to check the site regularly for updates.

SBU Receives Funding from SUNY PRODiG Initiative to Increase Faculty Diversity

Stony Brook University will receive over \$957,000 in funding from SUNY over a three-year period to support six faculty members as part of SUNY's new PRODiG Faculty Diversity Initiative — Promoting Recruitment, Opportunity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Growth. Through this initiative, SUNY has committed to a decade long effort to facilitate the hiring of 1,000 faculty who are historically underrepresented minorities and/or women in STEM disciplines. The initial round of PRODiG funding to be received by Stony Brook will support the salaries of: **Natasha Vitek**,

Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolution; **Amy Marschilok**, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry; **Ijeoma Opara**, Assistant Professor, School of Social Welfare; **Sara Hamideh**, Assistant Professor, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences; **Yifan Sun**, Institute for AI-Driven Discovery and Innovation; and **Carrie McDonough**, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering.

FSA Receives National Award for Inclusive Excellence

The **Faculty Student Association** (FSA) at Stony Brook University is the proud recipient of the NACAS Edwin R. Golden Award for Inclusive Excellence. This national award recognizes outstanding campus leadership, activities and/or programs that promote cultural awareness and inclusion. Over the past several years, the campus and FSA have collaborated to host cultural month open houses with world renowned chefs in recognition of Black History Month, Native American Heritage Month, Asian Heritage Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month.

II. RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Interim Chief Information Officer Appointed

Charles Patrick (Charlie) McMahon has agreed to serve as Interim Chief Information Officer as of December 2. Charlie is currently a consultant specializing in IT for higher education clients at Huron Consulting Group where he most recently led a project for Los Angeles Community College District, the largest community district in the nation. He served as Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Technology Officer at Tulane for nearly 10 years where he oversaw a staff of 140, an operating budget of \$21 million, and a \$5 million capital budget. His experience in academic IT spans more than 35 years, and his leadership will enable the Division of Information Technology to continue its positive trajectory.

Carmen Gonzalez Named Assistant Vice President for Procurement

After a national search, **Carmen Gonzalez**, formerly Associate Vice President for Strategic Procurement at Emory University in Atlanta, has been appointed as Assistant Vice President for Procurement. She will lead the areas of Research Foundation (RF) and State Purchasing; RF and State Accounts Payable; Contract and Document Administration; Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Business; Strategic Sourcing; Travel and Expense Management; Credit Card Administration; University Hospital Accounts Payable; Central Services and Receiving; Property Control; and Mail Services. Gonzalez earned a Bachelor of Arts (with Honor) in Materials and Logistics Management from Michigan State University, and an Executive MBA from the University of Denver, Daniels College of Business.

III. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Since the beginning of the 2020 fiscal year, more than \$18.6 million has generously been given by 5,000 donors investing in our students, faculty, staff, and patients. Their contributions include:

- \$425,000 toward an Endowed Professorship in Regenerative Medicine
- \$300,000 bequest intention designated to the Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology
- \$277,000 toward undergraduate student scholarship support
- \$185,000 toward the Laufer Center Research and Recruitment
- \$100,000 toward graduate student support in Translational Biomedical Research

The 2020 Stars of Stony Brook Gala will be held on **Wednesday, March 11** and will honor **Drs. Barry and Bobbi Collier**.

IV. FACULTY & STUDENT ACCOLADES

I am pleased and proud to report on the following recent outstanding accomplishments of our faculty and students:

- **Kenneth Kaushansky, MD, MACP, Dean of the Renaissance School of Medicine and Senior Vice President of Health Sciences**, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the New York Genome Center (NYGC). Stony Brook University is an institutional founding member of the NYGC — an independent, nonprofit academic research institution focused on furthering genomic research that leads to scientific advances and new insights and therapies for patients with neurodegenerative diseases, neuropsychiatric diseases and cancer.
- **Lucie Baumont**, a PhD student in the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Physics and Astronomy, is among 49 graduate students recently selected by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science Graduate Student Research Program to receive supplementary funding and placement in a DOE laboratory to work alongside DOE scientists. Lucie will travel to the Stanford University operated SLAC National Accelerator Lab in San Mateo County, California. As part of her PhD work, Lucie uses weak gravitational lensing of galaxy clusters to learn about cosmology.

V. STONY BROOK RED BOOK – YOUR GUIDE TO HELPING STUDENTS WHEN YOU HAVE A CONCERN

The Health, Wellness, and Prevention Services team of the Division of Student Affairs has developed comprehensive website – the **Red Book** – to equip the SBU community with tools to help students in need. Our **Student Support Team** will be offering training on the resource guide to all academic and student service areas in the coming semester. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the services we offer to students and provide assistance to faculty and staff who are often faced with complex challenges related to how best to support our students.

VI. SUNY — ELSEVIER NEGOTIATIONS

SUNY's Elsevier contract expires on December 31, 2019. SUNY is currently in the midst of system-wide contract renewal negotiations with Elsevier, the largest publisher of scientific and medical journals. Interim Dean Shafeek Fazal is holding a town hall meeting to provide updates on the state of the negotiations and to discuss alternative means of access to impacted journals in the event that there is no agreement with Elsevier. This meeting will take place on **Tuesday, December 10 at 11:00 AM in the Health Sciences Center, Level 3, Room 3-152** ([RSVP here](#)).

VII. WINTER COMMENCEMENT

Stony Brook will celebrate Winter Commencement on **Friday, December 20 in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena**. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will confer bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees for summer 2019 and fall 2019 graduates. Faculty members are invited to attend.

VIII. RECENT EVENTS

Veterans Day Ceremony

This year's Veterans Day Ceremony, held on November 6, honored all students, alumni, faculty, staff, and families who have served, or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. Present were veterans of wars ranging from Afghanistan, Iraq, Vietnam, Korea, and World War II. The keynote speaker was **Dean Tufts, P.E.**, and Stony Brook's Vice President for Facilities and Services, who recently completed a 30-year Navy career. Remarks were also made by student speaker and Air Force veteran **Katherine Maier**.

Annual Awards Dinner

More than 65 faculty and staff were recently honored at the Annual Awards and Recognition Dinner. The night celebrated faculty achievements, appointments to distinguished professorships, and Chancellor's Awards recipients. For a complete list of all faculty achievements and Chancellor's Awards received by Stony Brook faculty and staff through the years, please visit: stonybrook.edu/provost/faculty/awards/.

IX. ATHLETICS UPDATE¹

- **Fall Championship Titles:** Stony Brook Athletics won two America East Conference championships during the fall. Men's Cross Country took home the title for the third time in four years, while Women's Soccer claimed their second title in three years.
- **Men's & Women's Basketball:** Both the men's and women's basketball teams have jumped out to outstanding starts in 2019-20. The men are currently 5-2, while the women are 5-1.
- **Football:** The 2020 Stony Brook Football schedule was recently released. The Seawolves will open with three straight road games in advance of their home opener on September 26 against Sacred Heart University. Homecoming will take place on October 3, when Richmond comes to LaValle Stadium.
- **Facilities:** Construction on the new Indoor Training Center is scheduled for completion by December 31.

¹ As of November 26