

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** University Senate

**FROM:** Maurie McInnis  
President

**DATE:** February 1, 2021

**SUBJECT:** President's Report

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**I. POWER OF EDUCATION TO UNITE & HEAL**

After the attack on the United States Capitol last month, I reflected on what took place and on our role as a community in helping to respond to this moment. I encourage you to take a few moments to read this [message](#) and visit our [care, respect, and civility](#) website.

**II. LEADERSHIP UPDATES****Appointment of Dr. Paul Goldbart as Provost**

I am pleased to announce that **Dr. Paul Goldbart**, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, Robert E. Boyer Chair, and Mary Ann Rankin Leadership Chair at The University of Texas at Austin, will become Stony Brook University's next Executive Vice President and Provost, effective March 22, 2021. Dr. Goldbart rose to the top of a very competitive pool of candidates in a national search. A theoretical physicist and scientific leader in the areas of quantum materials and soft condensed matter, Dr. Goldbart earned a BA in Physics and Theoretical Physics from Cambridge University. He earned an MS in Physics from UCLA, and a diploma in Mathematical Physics and a PhD in Physics from Imperial College London. His career includes appointments at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he was assistant, associate and full professor, and played key roles in the graduate program and research growth; at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he served as department chair, and Dean of the College of Sciences; and at the University of Texas at Austin, where he serves as Dean of the College of Natural Sciences.

Dr. Goldbart is a passionate advocate for public research universities, which he describes as crucibles of human creativity, guardians of human capability, and places where students can discover who they are and how they can contribute to the world. In addition to being a prolific scholar, Paul is an award-winning educator who is committed to nurturing and inspiring high-caliber instruction and assessment. A visionary leader, he has demonstrated success in faculty development, curricular innovation, strategic planning, fundraising, public engagement, and diversity, equity and inclusion. I am certain that Paul Goldbart will play an integral role in helping to elevate our performance and reputation as a leading public research university. As the chief academic officer, he will be responsible for oversight of the academic mission of the university, providing direct supervision for all academic units, support services and operations including

enrollment management and student success, and coordinating all academic programs. The deans and directors of the colleges, schools, libraries, centers and institutes, including those in the Health Sciences Center related to non-clinical matters, will report to the Provost. Shifting the Health Sciences schools to the Provost for non-clinical matters will provide greater alignment in our research enterprise, enhance interdisciplinary education, and offer enhanced services to our students and faculty.

A renowned scientist, educator, and academic leader, Paul brings excellent experience in leading a large and complex college. He is an open and collaborative leader who is focused on building an inclusive and equitable environment for faculty, staff, and students. He is deeply committed to supporting faculty as they pursue their scholarly ambitions and their work as educators. I am so pleased to welcome a leader of Paul Goldbart's caliber to our Stony Brook University community.

### **Dr. Ken Kaushansky Retiring from Stony Brook University**

**Dr. Ken Kaushansky** stepped down as Dean of the Renaissance School of Medicine (RSOM) on January 31. He will remain on as Senior Vice President of Health Sciences (SVPHS) through the end of the academic year (June 30) to ensure a smooth transition and to aid in the broad Stony Brook Medicine efforts to manage what we hope to be the final acute phase of COVID-19 on Long Island.

Ken was appointed in July 2010 as Stony Brook's Dean and Senior Vice President of Health Sciences. While at Stony Brook, he oversaw a realignment of the School of Medicine, the Clinical Practice Plan, and University Hospital, fostering cooperation, coordination and growth. This included the development of an expanded University Hospital with additional beds, the Children's Hospital, the new site of the Stony Brook Cancer Center and the Medicine and Research Translation building. Ken and his team have created a true healthcare system, growing from the single hospital and 800 faculty physicians, practicing almost exclusively within 3 miles of campus, to four hospitals, over 1,000 faculty physicians and over 150 affiliated physicians, practicing in approximately 200 sites all through Suffolk County. During this time, the quality of healthcare delivered by our faculty and staff has also excelled, with University Hospital having been deemed one of the top 100 hospitals in the US for the past two years by Healthgrades. Additionally, access to care has been enhanced through the efforts begun under Ken's leadership related to the Suffolk County Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment program, which forms the basis for our most recent medical quality initiative, the clinically integrated network.

Under his leadership, the RSOM enhanced its curriculum and raised the quality of the student body. On the research front, the impact of the RSOM has grown in the strategic areas of cancer, the neurosciences, and infections and immunity – which has aided in our studies of the SARS-CoV2 virus and COVID-19. The addition of new research space, a state-of-the-art imaging center and new interdisciplinary efforts like the Department of Biomedical Informatics and the Institute for Engineering Driven Medicine set the stage for additional growth in biomedical research. Ken's impact on this institution and on healthcare on Long Island will be felt for years to come.

## **Dr. William Wertheim Appointed Interim Dean, Renaissance School of Medicine**

I am pleased to announce that **William Wertheim, MD, FACP** has been appointed Interim Dean of Stony Brook University's Renaissance School of Medicine, effective February 1. He will have primary responsibility for the school's academic and educational mission.

Dr. Wertheim currently serves as vice dean for graduate medical education and designated institutional official. A graduate of Harvard University and New York University School of Medicine, Wertheim completed his internal medicine residency at University of Michigan Hospitals, where he also served as chief resident. He worked as a clinical faculty member at the University of Michigan's Veteran's Administration Hospital, then moved to New York, where he worked at The Brooklyn Hospital Center. He came to Stony Brook in 1996, where he began by leading the Medical Consult Service. He later served as associate program director and director of the primary care track of the Internal Medicine residency, then Internal Medicine residency program director, followed by executive vice chair of the Department of Medicine and associate dean for clinical outreach. He assumed his current vice dean role in 2016. He has also served as president of the medical staff of Stony Brook University Hospital.

Dr. Wertheim is widely regarded as a compassionate physician who provides outstanding care to his patients. His commitment to medical education, and his advocacy for residents in Stony Brook Medicine residency and fellowship programs in particular, has contributed significantly to the success and national reputation of these programs. He is considered accessible and thoughtful, and a person of great integrity. He has agreed to serve as interim dean until a permanent dean is identified, at which time he will return to his current vice dean position.

### **III. COVID-19 UPDATES**

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

- **Vaccines**
  - The New York State Department of Health expanded vaccination eligibility on January 11, and SBU was designated as a Point of Distribution (POD) for community vaccine administration. The New York State Department of Health allocates vaccines and determines who is eligible.
  - Stony Brook University Hospital administered 100% of its COVID-19 vaccine allocations in its first four weeks and is among the highest performing vaccine distribution sites in New York State.
  - Long Island State Veterans Home vaccinations are being provided onsite through a special NYS program for nursing homes administered by CVS Pharmacy.
  - Stony Brook is keeping our community up-to-date via our Coming Back Safe and Strong email messages and website (see our [Vaccine Information page](#), which contains continuously updated FAQs).
  
- **Student Testing Requirements and Protocols for Spring 2021**
  - Prior to arriving on campus, all resident and commuter students must comply with the following mandates:
    - ✓ Students must complete the daily Campus Clear health screening app for any symptoms for 14 days and self-quarantine for 7 days at home.

- ✓ Depending on where they're coming from, students must upload to Medcat, our Student Health Services records system, a negative COVID PCR test taken either 3 days prior to the day they arrive to campus (if traveling from a non-contiguous state or Level 2 or higher country) or 7 days (if traveling from a contiguous state) prior to the day they arrive to campus, and complete the New York State Traveler Health Form if they're traveling to Stony Brook from any state other than New York.
  - Resident students move-in:
    - ✓ Residents who needed precautionary quarantine housing arrived in mid-January.
    - ✓ New residents moved in from January 27-29 and returning students moved in January 30-31.
  - Spring requirements for students:
    - ✓ All residents are required to participate in twice a week COVID PCR testing at an assigned location. This testing program will help us quickly identify students who test positive and reduce the spread of COVID.
    - ✓ Just like the fall semester, no overnight guests will be permitted in campus residence hall rooms, suites, or apartments. Each resident is permitted to have one resident guest at a time; non-resident guests are not permitted except on move-in date.
    - ✓ Commuter students are required to participate in the COVID saliva pool test once a week.
  - All students have been encouraged to continue to follow Stony Brook, local, state, and CDC guidelines to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID. When we learn of a violation of the rules associated with COVID safety, students may lose access to campus facilities and/or campus housing. Other disciplinary actions may be taken by the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.
- **Spring Return to Campus for Employees**
  - Pooled saliva testing continues for on-campus employees. Employees are required to get tested every week.
  - Guidance for fully remote faculty and staff returning to campus for the spring semester was issued in January and covers testing and screening. More information is available [here](#).
  - Guidance for supervisors was also released in January and is available [here](#).
- **Telecommuting**
  - NYS has extended the telecommuting agreement to April 2, 2021. This gives us the continued framework to accommodate remote work.
- **Stony Brook Medicine Awarded \$1M to Address COVID-19 Healthcare Disparities**
  - Stony Brook Medicine will soon be able to provide further telehealth options for its patients after being awarded \$966,026 by the FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program, the largest FCC funding of any hospital system on Long Island through the program. Several departments within Stony Brook University Hospital will use the funds to address health disparities by increasing access to telehealth technology.

- **Novavax Vaccine Trial**
  - Stony Brook Medicine is the only site on Long Island and one of two in New York State to be selected to participate in the Novavax Phase Three clinical trial to assess the safety and effectiveness of an investigational vaccine designed to protect against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The clinical trial will measure whether the vaccine candidate can protect against COVID-19 infection, as well as its ability to reduce the severity of the disease.
  
- **SUNY Awards Grants to Fund Projects to Improve PPE**
  - In December, State University of New York Chancellor **Jim Malatras** announced awards from the SUNY Prepare Innovation and Internship Program as a way to develop state-of-the-art PPE and improve effective safety interventions. A total of 12 teams of SUNY students and faculty across seven campuses received up to \$10,000 each in seed funding to conduct further research on their proposals. Stony Brook University's award will fund ADA-compliant transparent masks and a low-cost surgical mask for people with respiratory problems.

#### **IV. MID-YEAR FINANCIAL UPDATE**

- The University entered into FY21 needing to make reductions in departmental budgets in order to absorb the decreases in tuition revenue experienced as a result of COVID's impact on our student mix along with a decrease in expected state support.
- Expenditures from the first half of the fiscal year show that departments across the University stepped up to the challenge of limiting personnel and other spending. Accordingly, we project being able to end the year using somewhat less of our fund balance than we had anticipated needing to do in order to balance the budget while having as small an impact on departments as possible.
- We still expect a cut to our state allocation and continue to face the challenges caused by systemic budget gaps. It is important that we continue to focus on the revenue generating and process efficiency ideas coming out of the SBI. This will allow us to create a financial plan moving forward that covers our expenses like annual increases in faculty and staff compensation while allowing for investments in our strategic priorities.

#### **V. STATE BUDGET**

Governor Cuomo recently released his proposed state for next fiscal year. Highlights of proposals impacting Stony Brook include:

- **Operating Funds**
  - \$69M reduction to SUNY funding rather than the \$300-\$400M we had been initially told to expect with flexibility to manage any reduction as SUNY deems appropriate rather than having to do an across the board cut.
  - Tuition assistance and opportunity programs held harmless.
  - Predictable tuition plan and maintenance of effort extension through FY24/25 allowing for a maximum increase of \$200 per year.

- Flexibility in setting tuition rate categories for University Centers and other Doctoral Degree granting institutions.
  - Streamlining of SED approval for new programs.
  - Extension of procurement flexibility provisions enacted in 2011, including provisions related to both higher education and hospital purchasing.
  - Expansion of SUNY Online Training Center.
  - Funding for Clean Water Technology Center at SBU continued.
  - CAT/COE funding decreased with proposal to modify programs.
- **Capital Funds**
    - \$550M allocation of critical maintenance funds to SUNY of which \$396M is directed to campuses (\$23.974 allocated to SBU/HSC/LISVH).
    - \$50M for SBUH continued.

## **VI. SBU WILL HELP LAUNCH STATE’S NEW OFFSHORE WIND TRAINING INSTITUTE**

As part of the largest public investment in offshore wind workforce development by any state in the country, the State University of New York (SUNY) and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) have launched New York’s Offshore Wind Training Institute (OWTI) to train 2,500 workers. Through a partnership between Stony Brook University and Farmingdale State College, the \$20 million investment in the new training institute will advance offshore wind training programs and the educational infrastructure needed to establish a skilled workforce that can support the emerging national offshore wind industry. This supports Governor Cuomo’s nation-leading goal of developing 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind by 2035 as outlined in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

## **VII. NAVY FUNDS RESEARCH TO ENHANCE ENERGY RESILIENCY**

Stony Brook University researchers, in collaboration with the University of Massachusetts Lowell, will be investigating ways to make energy generation, storage and system operation more efficient, reliable and resilient, particularly in microgrid settings such as shore-based environments, under a new program funded by the United States Navy Office of Naval Research. The Navy grant, totaling \$7.36 million and shared equally between the two institutions, will run through fall 2022.

## **VIII. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE**

Since the start of the 2021 fiscal year, \$39 million has been generously pledged or contributed by 7,600 donors. Their investments in our students, research, healthcare and campus programs provide critical support, helping to elevate the University. Generous contributions since the last update include:

- \$2,250,000 pledge toward Simons Junior Faculty Fellows Grant
- \$800,000 toward the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics Endowment
- \$750,000 gift and pledge for Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) students
- \$420,000 in gifts and pledges toward student scholarships
- \$300,000 toward the Alda Center for Communicating Science
- \$120,000 toward Probabilistic Modeling of Touch Input in Human-Computer Interactions
- \$110,000 grant toward the Student Emergency Fund

- \$105,000 toward the Institute for Ocean Conservation Science
- \$100,000 toward an Endowed Professorship in Trauma Surgery
- \$90,000 toward the Garcia Center for Polymers
- \$75,000 pledge for the Children’s Hospital

## IX. INDIVIDUAL ACCOLADES

- Renowned paleoanthropologist and conservationist **Richard E. Leakey**, a professor in the Department of Anthropology and chair of the Turkana Basin Institute, was recently inducted as an Honorary Fellow into the African Academy of Sciences (AAS). Leakey has devoted the majority of his life to research on human origins, conservation of wildlife and public service.
- **Nancy M. Hollingsworth**, distinguished teaching professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Election as an AAAS Fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers. Dr. Hollingsworth was elected “for distinguished contributions to the field of genetics, particularly the discovery of genes important for meiotic chromosome segregation.”
- Professor **Stanley Bak** from the Department of Computer Science has received an award from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) in their prestigious Young Investigator Program (YIP). He will receive a grant of \$450,000 for three years to study the “Science of Fuzz Testing Autonomous Cyber-Physical Systems.”
- **Zachary Dowdy**, a faculty member at Stony Brook’s School of Communication and Journalism, was recently awarded a fellowship for educators of color to attend a Data Bootcamp for Educators program, offered by the Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE).
- Atmospheric scientist **Pavlos Kollias**, who holds a joint appointment at Stony Brook University and the U.S. Department of Energy’s Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), is the recipient of a 2020 American Geophysical Union (AGU) Atmospheric Sciences Ascent Award. This award annually recognizes five exceptional, mid-career scientists for their excellence in research and leadership in the atmospheric and climate sciences.
- Students in the College of Arts and Sciences were recently awarded the SUNY PACC Prize for Performing Arts, Creation and Curation. The modular and technology-focused experimental music group, Ensemble Decipher, which includes Department of Music students **Joseph Bohigian**, PhD ’20; **Sam Beebe**, PhD ’21; **Robert Cosgrove**, DMA ’20; **Taylor Long**, DMA ’22; **Eric Lemmon**, PhD ’21; **Chelsea Loew**, PhD ’21; and **Niloufar Nourbakhsh**, PhD ’21, will tour multiple campuses in the SUNY system and commission new music from SUNY students and faculty alike. **Amy Kahng**, a third-year PhD student in the Department of Art’s Art History and Criticism program, received the prize for her curatorial exhibition proposal, *Mis/Communication: Language and Power in Contemporary Art*.
- **Brianne Ledda**, a senior journalism student, has been recognized by the Hearst Journalism Awards Program. Ledda, who is also editor-in-chief of the Stony Brook Statesman, placed in the top 20 in the national competition for feature writing for her piece about the legacy of slavery on Long Island. A version of the piece, which was produced for a class last year, also appeared in *Newsday* and on WSHU.

- **Diana Acosta** '06, '07 has been named a 2020 Latino National Security & Foreign Policy Next Generation Leader. As Deputy Division Chief of the Empowerment and Inclusion Division at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Diana advocates for marginalized populations around the world to ensure they have access to quality and equitable social services and their human rights are protected and promoted.
- Department of Art alum **Joseph Underwood**, PhD '17 has been awarded an Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant for his book project, *Forging a New Contemporary: Art from Senegal in Transnational Networks, 1974-1984*.

## X. CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL OF STUDENT ADVISORS (COSA)

Nominations are being sought for the President's Council of Student Advisors for the 2021-2022 academic year. I am looking for exemplary students who demonstrate leadership, ingenuity, intellectual capacity, and a deep commitment to the University. The Council consists of undergraduates with demonstrated academic excellence and sincere interest in the challenges and complexities confronting higher education. Advisors engage in targeted research throughout the year on important issues that impact our campus community and make recommendations for improvement. All nominations are due by **Thursday, February 11**. For more information about the Council and nomination process, please visit:

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/pres/cosa/index.php>.

## XI. RECENT EVENTS

### Winter Commencement

After months of hybrid learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, thousands of Stony Brook University students were awarded degrees at the Winter Virtual Degree Conferral Celebration, which was webcast on Friday, December 18. Candidates, with their families and friends, were invited to participate in the live-streamed celebration as bachelors, masters, doctoral and professional, medical degrees and graduate certificates were bestowed. In addition, former Stony Brook Southampton faculty member and internationally renowned Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award winning cartoonist **Jules Feiffer** received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree, recognizing his talents that also include achievements as a celebrated playwright, screenwriter, satirist, children's book author, and graphic novelist.

## XII. UPCOMING EVENTS

### Black History Month Celebrations

The Office of Multicultural Affairs, Department of Africana Studies, and the Black History Month Committee have coordinated the University's annual [Black History Month](#) celebrations. This year's theme, **Sankofa! Black Creativity**, reflects the past and present innovation, resilience, and beauty that uniquely characterizes people of the African Diaspora. The Opening ceremony is set for **Wednesday, February 3 at 1:00 PM** and will feature keynote speaker **Dr. Julieanna L. Richardson**, Founder and Executive Director, [The History Makers](#). To register for this event, please click [here](#).



### **WolfieTank Competition**

**WolfieTank** – Stony Brook’s premier pitch competition for student entrepreneurs will be held on **Wednesday, February 24 at 7:00 pm via Zoom**. Inspired by the popular TV show “Shark Tank,” WolfieTank presents a unique opportunity for Stony Brook students to present their ideas to an esteemed panel of judges, as well as to the Stony Brook community, to encourage entrepreneurial spirit and professional networking. They will also receive valuable feedback and expert advice from established individuals in the industry. Many have gone on to build successful businesses from their ideas. Please visit the [WolfieTank website to RSVP](#) for this live-streamed event.

### **Staller Center Continues Virtual Programming This Spring**

Staller Center’s spring season will continue to be virtual. For more information, about the 2021 Film Series, please visit: <https://www.stallercenter.com/movies/>

## **XIII. ATHLETICS UPDATE<sup>1</sup>**

- **Academics:** Seawolves student-athletes produced a collective 3.30 GPA during the fall semester. It is the highest cumulative GPA during any semester. The women's tennis program led the way with a 3.72 and was closely followed by the women's soccer team at 3.68 and the softball team at 3.65.
- **Women's Basketball:** Senior **India Pagan** became the 18<sup>th</sup> player in Stony Brook women's basketball history to score 1,000 career points, as the Seawolves claimed a 64-41 win at New Hampshire on January 17.
- **Women's Lacrosse:** Senior women's lacrosse standout **Ally Kennedy** was named national Preseason Player of the Year and featured on the cover of US Lacrosse magazine in January. Entering the season as the No. 5 team in the nation, Stony Brook women's lacrosse started practice on January 21.
- **Men’s Lacrosse:** Men's lacrosse will become the first team other than basketball to compete during the 2020-21 academic year. The team is scheduled to host Sacred Heart in LaValle Stadium on February 13.

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<sup>1</sup> As of January 22