



MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

FROM: Maurie McInnis
President

DATE: November 2, 2020

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. COVID-19 MATTERS

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

- **SUNY Policy on Pre-Thanksgiving Break Testing**
Chancellor Malatras recently announced a [new SUNY system-wide policy](#), which mandates all students using on-campus facilities in any capacity to test negative for COVID-19 within the 10 days prior to leaving campus. The policy also strongly recommends that faculty and staff get a test during the same period.
- **Pooled Testing**
Faculty, staff and non-resident students who come to campus are now required to do saliva pooled COVID-19 testing. Feedback to date has been positive and those tested have noted it is a quick, easy process. Additional testing sites have been added at the Southampton Campus and Health Science Center and pooled saliva testing is also beginning for Stony Brook University Hospital employees. For more information, please visit the [FAQ page](#) on the Coming Back Safe and Strong [website](#).
- **Dr. Deborah Birx Visits Stony Brook**
Dr. Deborah Birx, head of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, visited Stony Brook University on October 7. In a series of meetings, Dr. Birx met with University leadership, researchers, students, and members of the COVID Response Team. She received an overview of Stony Brook's response to the virus, including campus policies and medical research. Dr. Birx praised the University's success in controlling the spread of COVID-19 and emphasized steps that can be taken to help keep case numbers low in the future. She stressed the need for enhanced surveillance in order to head off any possible resurgence in the community. She also warned of a likely resurgence of the disease in the Northeast in the fall and noted that this will be driven by smaller events like family gatherings. Dr. Birx also emphasized the importance of masks and physical distancing as residents move indoors during the colder months.

II. LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Charlie Robbins Steps Down

Dr. Charlie Robbins has stepped down as Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Student Success & Dean of the Undergraduate Colleges. During the past decade, Charlie has been an invaluable member of the senior leadership team and worked tirelessly to transform and enhance the academic experience of all undergraduate students. Charlie's touchstone accomplishment during his tenure was improving student success metrics through his work on the Academic Success Team and the Male Completion Team. His unwavering dedication and service have had a major impact on the lives of countless students.

III. UNIVERSITY ACCOLADES

SBUH Named America's 100 Best for Cardiac Care, Coronary Intervention and Stroke Care

Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) has once again earned national recognition for its programs that provide stroke care, cardiac care, and coronary intervention. It is the seventh year in a row that SBUH was named by Healthgrades as one of America's 100 Best Hospitals™ for Cardiac Care, and the sixth consecutive year that SBUH has been named one of America's 100 Best Hospitals™ for Coronary Intervention and Stroke Care.

IV. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Since the start of the 2021 fiscal year, \$7 million has been generously pledged or donated by 3,600 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:

- Stony Brook's second annual Giving Day was a success with 2,500 donors raising \$362,000. Forty-eight matching challenges were fulfilled to benefit more than 29 areas across campus, with \$216,400 raised for the Colleges and departmental projects. Alumni led the way in giving, making 41 percent of the 2,900 gifts to the fundraising drive.
- \$1.7M planned gift intention for Computer Science.
- \$500,000 pledge toward an Endowed Professorship in Gastroenterology.
- \$300,000 gifts and pledges toward an endowed research fund in Chemistry.
- \$290,000 to support undergraduate student scholarships.
- \$125,000 pledge toward an Endowed Lectureship Award in Chemistry.
- \$100,000 pledge toward an endowed student scholarship in Computer Science.
- \$50,000 toward the CAR-T Cancer Therapy Program.

V. ELECTION DAY RESOURCES

With Election Day around the corner, many efforts have been made to engage and prepare our community. The University recently launched a [Caring, Respect and Civility website](#), which provides information on upcoming events, free speech, internal and external resources, along with

news and updates. A special edition of the Beyond the Expected podcast series, “Election 2020: Preparing for the Day After” will air on Facebook Live on November 2 at 1:00PM. In addition, the Center for Civic Justice has held virtual presidential debate viewing sessions and offers a wealth of voting resources on its [website](#). We also recently sent out a set of resources to provide you with some tools and guidelines to help you manage your classes and support your students, colleagues, and yourselves over the coming weeks.

VI. NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT & TITLE IX NOTICE

At a time when systemic inequity and discrimination have been painfully evident in so many aspects of our society, I have found hope in the groundswell of voices that are calling on us to live up to our values as a nation and a learning community. That’s why it has never been more important to reiterate Stony Brook University’s commitment to creating and fostering a learning, working, and living environment that is free from discrimination and sexual harassment. Stony Brook University prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, disability, marital status, familial status, pregnancy, genetic predisposition, criminal convictions, domestic violence victim status, veteran or military status, and all other protected classes under federal or state laws.

We must familiarize ourselves with the policies that affect our daily interactions with others on campus, whether it be students, faculty, staff, visitors, or patients in our care. Please take the time to review the University’s Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy ([P105](#)) and Sexual Misconduct and Reporting Policy ([P106](#)). Both policies are vital to creating and maintaining a community where our diverse population can live, work, study, and recreate in an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, equity, equal employment opportunity, and respect for every individual.

To report a discrimination or sexual misconduct matter, please contact the Assistant Vice President, Title IX, and ADA Coordinator of the Office Equity and Access (OEA), **Marjolie Leonard**, at Marjolie.Leonard@stonybrook.edu. OEA is located in the Administration Building, Room 201; Phone: 631-632-6280. For more information on how to make a report, visit their website at www.stonybrook.edu/reportit or email them at Reportit@stonybrook.edu.

VII. FSA ANNOUNCES NEW BOOKSTORE PARTNERSHIP

Stony Brook University has teamed up with Barnes & Noble as its official bookstore and campus store provider (as of October 22). After a national competitive bid process, Barnes & Noble stood out as a partner that would offer a better program and expand opportunities for students to save on the overall cost of course materials including textbook rentals. Barnes & Noble is the only operator that controls its own supply chain for used and rental course materials, offering access to the largest inventory of low-cost course materials in the industry. For additional information, please visit: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/fsa/services/bookstore/>.

VIII. UPCOMING EVENTS

Veterans Day Ceremony

This year's Veterans Day Ceremony will take place on **Wednesday, November 11 at 1:00 PM** in a virtual format. The ceremony will honor all students, alumni, faculty, staff, and families who have served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. For more information or to register for this event please visit the Veterans Affairs [website](#).

Winter Commencement

Stony Brook will celebrate Winter Commencement on **Friday, December 18 at 6:30 PM**. All candidates and their families are invited to participate in a virtual celebration that will recognize our graduates and confer degrees. Please visit the Commencement [website](#) for more information on a variety of in-person and virtual events to celebrate the December Class of 2020

IX. ATHLETICS UPDATE

- The men's and women's basketball teams will open the season on **Wednesday, November 25** – the first permissible date of competition as set by the NCAA. In order to mitigate travel, America East conference games will be played in a format that consists of weekend series, where a team hosts the same opponent on back-to-back days for two games. With no fans expected to be permitted to games in Island Federal Arena, the "My Seawolves Cutout" program will allow supporters to purchase a cardboard cutout that will be placed in a seat location.
- Football will play a six-game conference schedule in the spring, beginning with the home opener at LaValle Stadium on March 6 against Villanova.
- Stony Brook Athletics launched the "Believe In The Seawolves" campaign on October 8 to coincide with the University-wide Giving Day. Including a \$100,000 commitment, the year-long campaign has generated over \$200,000 from supporters thus far.
- The Black Student-Athlete Huddle partnered with the Stony Brook Chapter of the NAACP to hold a rally for social justice outside of the Staller Center on Wednesday, October 21.