

CAS Natural Sciences and Math And SOMAS

| Candidate Full Name | Name of Department | Candidate Statement |
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| Nicholas Fisher | SoMAS (School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences) | I am a professor in SoMAS, where I teach and conduct research involving marine pollution. I received my PhD from Stony Brook (1974), then after working in Woods Hole, Australia, and Europe for the UN, I returned to Stony Brook in 1988 as Assoc. Professor. I was promoted to Professor (1991) and to Distinguished Professor (2005). I became the founding director of CIDER (Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Research) in 2006. I'm dedicated to this university and to attracting a new President who could provide vibrant leadership, someone excited to be here, and someone who matches the excellence of our faculty. |
| David Kahn | ISTEM/Mathematics | As the son of a former Stony Brook professor (who was a Chair and Dean), I have a long history with the school going back to the early 1960's. I have had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know every one of Stony Brook's presidents. Now that I have been teaching here for several years, I am seeing Stony Brook from yet another perspective. My hope would be to help find a president who will be able to enhance the student experience, as well as manage the complex issues (financial, political, and social) that the university will face going forward. |
| Paul B. Shepson | School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences | Having served in University (and Federal agency) leadership positions for the last 15 years, I have had a number of experiences regarding the importance of this position to the success of our University, and have developed an appreciation for the range of leadership qualities that would lead to a President's success. I believe that this appointment will indeed be critical to SBU's success for the near and long term. I am willing to work hard as a committee member. |
| Alfredo Fontanini | Neurobiology and Behavior | As chair of the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, I have the privilege to serve both the Medical School and the College of Arts and Sciences. The Department has a strong educational mission (undergraduate, graduate and medical) and an outstanding research enterprise. In addition to my administrative role, I am a NIH-funded scientist running a research lab and an educator (I teach for the medical school, the dental school and the graduate program in Neuroscience). This unique perspective will assist me in evaluating the qualifications of the next president, who will face the challenge of growing and innovating the University's research and educational endeavors in the face of shrinking State support. |
| Roy A. Lacey | Chemistry | |
| Axel Drees | Physics and Astronomy | I am Chair of Physics/Astronomy, Chair of CAPRA, an involved member of the Senate, and I have an active research program. In my 20+ years at SBU, I have also served as Vice Provost, Acting Dean and Associate Dean of CAS. I will support candidates who have clear priorities focused on promoting and advancing the excellence of SBU's academic endeavors including research, scholarly activities, teaching. An ideal candidate would have a solid academic background, view the administration as a service branch of the university, have a record of supporting shared governance, financial transparency, and a culture of trust and honesty. |
| Dianna K Padilla | Ecology and Evolution | As a Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution and an affiliate faculty with SoMAS for 20 years, I have taught undergraduate and graduate courses and have maintained a federally funded research program. I have trained high school and undergraduate students in research, and graduated MA, MS and PhD students. I am committed to finding strong new leadership for SBU, particularly a candidate that appreciates and will enhance both our education and research missions across all fields and for students at all levels, as well as one with a demonstrated commitment to all aspects of diversity at our University. |

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| Jacobus Verbaarschot | Physics and Astronomy | A top university has to achieve excellence in all areas. I will work hard to find a president who vigorously pursues this goal, both by building on our present strengths and by moving weaker areas to the level of a first class research university. Having been graduate program director for the past ten years, I will make sure that we select a president with a strong focus on graduate education and research while building top rated research focused undergraduate programs, among others by increasing the number of TA lines. Transparency of the administrative process should be a priority of the president as well. |
| Jan Christopher Bernauer | Department of Physics and Astronomy | As a student in Germany, my understanding of university organization was shaped by the strong academic self-governance prevalent in the German university system. A president has unique power to either stifle or foster the participation of faculty, staff and students in this endeavour. I see it as an integral part of my profession and will focus my evaluation of candidates with regard to their views on shared governance. As an assistant professor, I will further test the candidate's ideas to ensure the continued capability to attract and retain excellent students and faculty. |
| Robert C. Aller | SoMAS | Stony Brook, like the SUNY system, is administration-centered. The lack of meaningful checks and balances on administrative decisions puts a premium on selecting a president who respects and expects shared governance as their basic philosophy. We need a president who embraces and engages the entire diverse University community, its spectrum of research and educational missions, and not a favored subset. A new president should have demonstrated these critical traits, including openness and ethical behavior, through a history of actions and not simply rhetoric during a job interview. I would work to achieve this outcome. |
| Jeffrey Levinton | Ecology and Evolution | We must find a President who recognizes the strong mutualistic partnerships needed to grow both educational programs and scholarly research. Such a President will be communicative in decision-making, including transparent allocation of funding for faculty growth and educational programs. Communication must be strong, both ways, between the president and students and student-responsible offices and with the provost, deans, departments and major academic centers. A suitable president will make sure that the Provost has the resources to produce a workable plan with the Deans that gives students the courses they need and serves the interests of student and faculty diversity. |
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