



Reminders:

- Review the Presidential Search website <http://www.esf.edu/presidential-search/> for complete information about the process, candidates, and scheduled visits and to leave feedback.

General meeting:

1. President call to order
2. Roll call by Secretary
 - o Attendees: 8

New Business:

1. Presidential Search Discussion

- o Candidates:
 1. Candidate 1: Mary Pearl
 1. Forum held last week
 2. CV: <http://www.esf.edu/presidential-search/cv/PearlCV.pdf>
 3. Leave feedback: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ESFMaryPearl>
 2. Candidate 2: Robert Prezant
 1. Meeting with Students and forum held today, October 7th, 2 pm.
 2. Tomorrow, October 8th, 2 pm: Presentation "Vision 20/20 and Beyond" and Campus Open Forum – Gateway Center AB. Provide

feedback online:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ESFRobertPrezant>

3. Candidate 3: Quentin Wheeler
 1. Wednesday October 9th 2pm: Meeting with Students
 2. Presentation and Campus Open Forum: Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 10:30am, Gateway Center AB
 4. Candidate 4: Aldemaro (Al) Romero
 1. Presentation and Open Forum: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at 9:00am, Gateway Center AB
 5. Candidate 5: James Coleman
 1. Presentation and Open Forum, Friday, October 18, 2013 at 1:30pm, Gateway Center AB
- o How to proceed? - Discussion
1. Endorsement_ single statement
 1. Eugene: focus on priorities, what would be priorities for the GSA?
 2. Owen: what would be important characteristics for the president to have?
 3. John: There was a letter with comments collected last year. Not sure what is its content. Chris should go over that and send it to everyone. We should have a few paragraphs. It's hard to realize how the president is important. Not in the student's radars.
 4. Eugene's comment after meeting the two first candidates:
 1. Today's candidate seemed much more personable, and **focused on students**, which is expectable since he was the Dean of students at Montclair. Seems to be more in the student side.
 2. The other candidate seemed more **focused on obtaining recognition and funding, increasing the status of ESF.**
 5. What do we consider important? For them to be in contact with the students, or for them to be working to find external partners or sponsors and increasing support to ESF.

6. Some of examples of how the relation between the President and the students is important (Eugene)
 1. The President is the only **liaison with the SUNY administration**; a president who is closer to the student body may set student priorities in the discussion of the SUNY system Board. An example of student's issues that could be prioritized by the President is the pay rate for TA's and GA's: a minimum stipend is set by SUNY, as a requirement for all the schools in the system. This could be a way to increase stipends for grads, which is been a concern for a long time.
 2. Eugene worked closely with president Murphy as the USA president, the Board of Trustees' representative, etc. President Murphy is very visible on campus and close to the students, and that is highly appreciated by the students.
7. Craig: What is the president's job? Raising our profile, prestige, getting funding? And is that important for grads? Or how would that impact grads?
8. John: Those items indirectly impact the grads, funding goes into major renovation, buildings, but not directly to specific research.
9. **Relationship ESF/SU** is a responsibility of president (Natalia)
10. Provost mostly in charge of the academic relationship. Mostly is the responsibility of different initiatives and departments in the College.
11. (Eugene)President sets the tone (ex: good relationship with SU) and the priority.
2. Owen: I would expect the following president take the **carbon neutral goal** as an important priority at ESF
3. Natalia: agrees, green infrastructure and other initiatives on campus are important elements of ESF. These elements differentiate the College from other institutions and even represent decisive elements when choosing Universities.
4. Eugene: another important element is **outreach**, sending people to conferences, having conferences on campus

5. Natalia: **professional connections** are also important. Some firms come to ESF to recruit people, and that makes the College recognized and provides job opportunities for students.
6. John: At ESF, there are lots of grad students, compared with the number of undergrads.
7. Eugene: this comes from the original organization of the College, when it trained advanced levels, for which it had a more research focused type of curriculum.
8. John: We would be interested having a President who understands the difference between grads and undergrads, and how our responsibilities and rights may differ
9. Natalia: providing opportunities for grad students get together is important; and creates a **close knit community**. Have a statement about how the GSA provides these opportunities (through social events, etc.). This community spirit that gets ESF-ers close is also important for professional development, it provides networking opportunities for grads, with alumni who leave and develop other networks, where ESF grads are later welcome
10. John: Include a paragraph about what are **the functions of the GSA**, introducing how is **representing the grad** student body and how is important
11. Craig: is **recognition around the country** an important issue? Maybe we observe local/regional recognition; and there are programs to attract international students. But none at the west coast knows about ESF.
 1. Hope: we don't want to get too branded, either.
 2. There is concern about having too many students
 3. Eugene: the school is not big enough for the rate at which we are growing
 4. John: a class of the size of 20-23 students has now six sections and undergrad TA's, because it's the only way to respond the demand
 5. Eugene: lack of housing is an indicator of crowd-ness.
 6. John: expanding the undergrad body also affects the grad body when there aren't enough facilities to hold the students properly.
 7. Eugene: Renovation is on-going; it's being done progressively.

8. Natalia: it's important to outreach, as some programs at ESF are not growing accordingly with the school's quality. A team of students in the LSA program won an award over teams from Harvard and Cornell, but still the program is receiving fewer students than in past years.
9. Craig: it's important to **promote the variety of ESF**, not focus only in Forestry

12. How/with what urgency should we proceed?

1. Next meeting of the Board of Trustees: October 18th
2. Oct 14th have a statement to vote during the meeting

13. John: Have Chris to put a letter together to be voted next meeting. The letter can be edited via e-mail.

1. Eugene has offered to work with him on it, since Chris is supposed to represent both undergrads and grads.

2. Points to be addressed in the letter to the Board of Trustees

- Carbon neutrality goal
- Outreach efforts
- Professional development
- GSA differentiation from USA
- GSA role unifying campus
- Paragraph on who we (GSA) are, what we do, and how we are important.
- National recognition focus
- Promoting the variety of programs at ESF (not only Forest)

3. Mechanism to produce the letter

- Craig will e-mail Chris, copied to Eugene, to inform him about the discussion held during this meeting and the topics determined as necessary to represent the views of the GSA to the Board of Trustees concerning.
- Chris may look at notes from last semester, compiled by Katharine DeVilbiss, former Board of Trustees representative, to complement topics discussed during the meeting with comments provided by students in the past.

- Chris will write a letter including the discussed topics and those previously compiled for the Senate to discuss and approve during the next meeting.
- Timeline: Have a draft sent out to the Senate by the weekend for initial comments. Then send a final draft to the Senate on Monday. And, discuss and approve final draft on Monday morning at the GSA Senate Meeting.

Attendance:

GSA Senate

1. Craig Lazzar
2. John Wiley
3. Natalia Cagide Elmer
4. Owen Hunter
5. Eileen Leon
6. Eugene Law
7. Hope Ansanelli
8. Yunyun BI