



November 28, 2018

To SUNY Poly Faculty, Staff, and Students:

As a result of your work, SUNY Polytechnic Institute continues to progress and offer an ever-improving educational experience while providing a world-class research platform for our faculty, staff, and students. With a reinvigorated focus on our critical academic and research mission, it is an appropriate time to realign, further clarify, and reintroduce you to our senior management team and their responsibilities, in order to help everyone understand each leadership role so that we can all move forward in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

I believe this strategic approach will help the following senior leaders to direct SUNY Poly's resources in an even more productive manner to further enable exciting opportunities for our faculty, students and staff, as well as for our internal and external stakeholders and partners.

*Below, please find a list of each senior manager (in alphabetical order) with a brief description of areas of oversight:*

### **Michael Frame, Chief Operating Officer and Chief of Staff**

As SUNY Poly's Chief Operating Officer, Mike Frame has overall strategic and operational responsibilities to direct, administer, and coordinate the operational activities of SUNY Poly's campuses. He oversees Human Resources, Information Technology Services, University Police, Utica facilities, Campus & Corporate Events, Communications & Marketing, External Relations, Institutional Research, and the SUNY Polytechnic Institute Foundation. In his Chief of Staff role, Mike coordinates the work of the Office of the President and serves as the point of contact for various internal and external constituent groups, including Fuller Road Management Corporation, Fort Schuyler Management Corporation, and the Auxiliary Services Corporation.

### **Rhonda Haines, Vice President of Human Resources and Interim Chief Diversity Officer**

In this capacity, Rhonda Haines provides strategic direction and execution of Human Resources strategies and plans, focusing on aligning them with the institution's operations and in support of SUNY Poly's academic and research mission. This includes formulating, implementing, and establishing policies and practices, managing all personnel operations and administration, and serving as the institution's Affirmative Action and Chief Ethics Officer.

As I mentioned during the town hall meetings, Rhonda will immediately spearhead the search for a Chief Diversity Officer, who will ensure compliance with federal, state, and SUNY diversity-focused regulations and guidelines, including Affirmative Action and Title IX, in addition to promoting inclusiveness and awareness via dissemination of relevant information and implementation of strategic activities.



### **Paul Kelly, Interim Vice President for Finance and RF Operations Manager**

In his role as Interim Vice President for Finance, Paul Kelly is responsible for the oversight of the institution's financial operations, providing the overall administrative, managerial, and business functions to SUNY Poly regarding financial management and budgets. He also manages research compliance efforts for both campuses and academic research facilities for Albany campus.

As RF Operations Manager, Paul oversees the administration of all sponsored programs at SUNY Poly, including pre-award and post-award administration, accounts payables and receivables, procurement, program financial management, and contracts and grants. He leads financial and administrative activities to foster a successful lifecycle for all sponsored research and economic development funding, ensuring the compliance of all programs with applicable policies, procedures, and regulations.

### **Dr. Michael Liehr, Executive Vice President of Technology and Innovation**

As Executive Vice President of Technology and Innovation, Dr. Liehr oversees SUNY Poly's technical economic development efforts and leads the American Institute for Manufacturing Integrated Photonics (AIM Photonics). Dr. Liehr is also responsible for the growth of government-academic-industry partnerships via utilization and expanded use of the institution's world-class R&D facilities and by engaging current and future industry partners.

### **Marybeth Lyons, Vice President for Student Affairs**

As Vice President for Student Affairs, Marybeth Lyons is responsible for determining strategic direction and long range planning of Student Affairs, with oversight of Athletics (Athletic Compliance & Academic Success); the Wellness Center (Health Services, Health Promotion and Counseling); Residential and Campus Life (student activities, student government, first-year seminar, and orientation); Career Services; Disability Services; the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP); Educational Opportunity Program (EOP); the CARE team; and Community Standards and Leadership Development.

### **Dr. Michael Manning, Vice President for Enrollment Management**

In this capacity, Dr. Manning provides leadership and vision to SUNY Poly's efforts to expand enrollment, with direct oversight and responsibility for Financial Aid, Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions, recruitment and retention activities, special academic sessions, as well as K-12 outreach efforts. He is tasked with outreach efforts to achieve enrollment targets for both undergraduate and graduate students.

### **Dr. Steve Schneider, Interim Provost**

As SUNY Poly's Interim Provost, Dr. Steve Schneider oversees academic operations, including SUNY Poly's six academic colleges and the administrative departments for Scholarship, Accreditation, Assessment, Distance Learning, and Student Success, as well as the Library and Office of the Registrar. The Interim Provost fosters academic excellence and accountability, cultivates innovative academic programs for the long-term growth of the Institution, and supports faculty development while working with other leadership team members to ensure the fiscal health of the academic operations. Dr. Schneider and I also work closely with SUNY Poly's shared governance representatives.



**Dr. F. (Shadi) Shahedipour-Sandvik, Interim Vice President of Research Advancement and Graduate Studies**

In order to build a solid infrastructure that supports and expands academic research activities at SUNY Poly, I am pleased to announce Dr. Shahedipour-Sandvik has agreed to take a new role as Interim Vice President of Research Advancement and Graduate Studies. Dr. Shahedipour-Sandvik will provide effective leadership in advancing SUNY Poly's world-class academic research, supporting and enabling R&D opportunities for faculty and researchers, and providing students with hands-on research experience to impart the skills required to support their future successes.

Dr. Shahedipour-Sandvik will continue to provide leadership for both doctoral and master's degree programs; administer the graduate programs budget and the awarding of degrees; monitor graduate-level academic standards; and conduct reviews of graduate programs. In collaboration with other units, Dr. Shahedipour-Sandvik will work to enable an enhanced student life for the professional development of graduate students at SUNY Poly.

The members of the senior management team listed above report directly to the Office of the President. I thank each of these leaders for their leadership and service. Their work is a critical part of our overall vision to drive our institution toward achieving its full potential as we continue to leverage the incredible energy and capabilities of SUNY Poly's faculty, staff, and students, as well as our partners, to chart an exciting course together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Grace Wang  
Interim President  
SUNY Polytechnic Institute