

February 26, 2021

As we all know, we continue to be in unprecedented times due to the impacts of the pandemic. Although the search for the next ESU president is continuing at a slower pace than we all wanted, today we wanted to share another update with our campus community.

First, our search continues. However, there seems to be some misinformation circulating regarding the reason why the search was slowed. Our adjustment in pace is NOT related to System Redesign or potential university integrations elsewhere in the System.

Please let me reassure you, along with the full support of the search committee and Chancellor Greenstein, the decision for adjusting the pace of the search has nothing to do with system integration. As it was shared during our virtual open forum on December 15, 2020, this timeline modification is solely a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our committee continues to believe that, in the spirit of shared governance and true stakeholder input, the only way to properly interview the candidates is to actually have them come to campus and meet our students, faculty, staff, and community members. As we all know, at this point in time, we cannot give the candidates or our campus constituents the necessary interaction to ensure we get this right.

We, as a campus community, need to show what ESU has to offer and the candidates need to do the same with us. Unfortunately, a virtual experience is not going to get us there with complete confidence. As many of you that have been part of search committees in the past know, the candidates must be immersed with us as much as we are with them during their visits but we must do it safely. Remember that we need to showcase our vibrant campus as well to truly understand who our candidates really are. Fit matters.

Given the unknowns we are facing, the search committee agreed to adjust the search timeline into the fall as the new school year begins. With ESU's intent and commitment to bring students back to campus for face-to-face classes this fall, we are confident that we can complete the search process and recommend the successful candidates to the Chancellor and Board of Governors during the upcoming fall semester.

Fortunately Interim President Long's solid leadership, along with his current cabinet, affords our university this luxury of time to get this search completed in the right way. It is our sincere hope that by adjusting this timeline, all of the constituents that need to be part of the search process will have the fullest opportunity to do so and be involved in the process to select our new president. Barring any unforeseen circumstances that this pandemic may bring, our search committee and Chancellor Greenstein are committed to this updated timeline.

We would like to thank the search committee that continues to be dedicated to the process by devoting an incredible amount of time to this search thus far. They all agree that with the beginning of the fall semester, we will return to a more dynamic campus, and that will translate into a better opportunity for the candidates to come to campus and see the beauty, energy, collaboration and innovative community that is ESU. Of course, all of that will showcase our Warrior Pride.

Tina L. Nixon '89
Chair, Presidential Search Committee

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