

April 3, 2020

Dear Members of the Durham Tech Community of Students, Faculty and Staff:

I hope this note finds you safe and well. My colleagues on the Board of Trustees and I appreciate the many sacrifices members of our community have had to make in recent weeks in dealing with the realities of the unprecedented disruption to your everyday life and our academic programs created by the COVID-19 virus. In these difficult times, we all can be proud of the exceptional work that faculty, staff and students have done and are doing to transition to electronic delivery of virtually all our classes. Who could have predicted that ZOOM would be such an important part of all our lives? We know that there have been and will continue to be challenges ahead, but everyone at Durham Tech should take pride in the way our community has come together in support of our students.

I write now to provide this update on the [search](#) for President Ingram's successor when he steps down after more than three decades of devoted service and leadership to Durham Tech. In doing so, I should note that President Ingram long ago made clear that he would serve as long as needed to effect a smooth transition to his successor. As recently as a few weeks ago, he reiterated this commitment as we discussed the current crisis and how we should think about inevitable challenges, once the immediate crisis is over.

Under the unprecedented circumstances in which we find ourselves and given the Board's unique fiduciary responsibility, I thought it appropriate to raise with the Trustees' Executive Committee at our meeting on ZOOM this past week, the possibility of delaying our search. I was pleased that the Executive Committee determined unanimously that we should continue the search as planned.

The Presidential Search Committee met by ZOOM last week for several hours with our search consultants from RPA Inc. to review the application materials from more than 140 candidates who have expressed serious interest in Durham Tech's presidency. This significantly large pool reflects the attractiveness of Durham Tech and the Research Triangle. After careful consideration, the search committee has selected a group of candidates from the pool for first-round interviews and has asked RPA Inc. to conduct extensive information-gathering discussions with those individuals. I am confident I speak for all of the members of the Presidential Search Committee when I report that we have an extremely strong, experienced and diverse pool of candidates. Our next step will be to learn the results of our consultant's continuing conversations and narrow the list to a smaller group that we then will invite to interview with the committee, again via ZOOM, by the end of this month.

The current COVID-19 crisis in our community has certainly changed not only our campus life but has affected every aspect of our daily lives. Thus, the Search Committee understands that this crisis may affect our original timeline for selecting the next President of Durham Tech. Nevertheless, we remain committed to ensuring



that the campus community is informed and engaged as originally envisioned in the search process.

Thank you for making Durham Tech such a remarkable and caring institution. As we face together the challenges of the current crisis, we all share in the important work our faculty and staff do to provide the best possible education for our students.

Sincerely,

John F. Burness  
Chair, Board of Trustees