MEMORANDUM

August 21, 2020

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Merryl H. Tisch, Chairman

SUBJECT: Appointment of Dr. Jim Malatras as Chancellor

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves the appointment of Dr. Jim Malatras as Chancellor.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the State University of New York is currently fulfilling its mission at an unprecedented time in its history as it prepares for the reopening of its campuses in the midst of a global COVID-19 pandemic, a State fiscal crisis, and national protests of racial injustice; and

Whereas these monumental challenges necessitate swift action by the Board of Trustees to appoint a new Chancellor who has the knowledge, skill, experience, and academic credentials to lead SUNY so that it may not only continue to provide excellent, accessible educational services but also grow and thrive as a world class public university; and

Whereas the Board has identified a candidate in Dr. Jim Malatras who possesses those necessary attributes to lead SUNY as its Chancellor in these uncertain times and bring it to new greatness; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that Dr. Jim Malatras be, and hereby, is appointed Chancellor of the State University of New York at an annual salary of $450,000.00, effective on or about August 31, 2020.
He will be provided with an annual housing allowance of $60,000.00 ($5,000 per month). Dr. Malatras shall also retain his tenured faculty appointment as a full professor at SUNY Empire State College.

**Background**

I am pleased to recommend for your approval the appointment of Dr. Jim Malatras as Chancellor of the State University of New York, effective on or about August 31, 2020. Dr. Malatras will succeed Dr. Kristina M. Johnson, who stepped down in August 2020.

Dr. Malatras currently serves as the President of SUNY Empire State College. Since beginning his tenure as President in July 2019, Dr. Malatras has achieved many accomplishments for the College in just under one year. Although too numerous to list here, some of the accomplishments include an establishment of more than 30 new partnerships with community colleges, corporate partners, community organizations and state agencies; the creation of a new Presidential Task Force to Enhance Equity and Inclusion; the hiring of 42% of faculty from underrepresented minorities which more than doubled the percentage of such hires over the last ten years; the launching of the College’s first ever Empire Opportunity Program which extends the benefits of the traditional educational opportunity programs to students at all stages of life and learning; the opening of the Shirley A. Chisholm Center for Equity Studies to study the roots, mechanisms, and impacts of institutionalized racism in America; and the enhancement of many student opportunities, including the creation of the Center for Autism Inclusivity, the Women’s Corporate Leadership Academy, and the development of the Northland Workforce Training Center partnership to bolster efforts to recruit, train, and educate the workforce in Buffalo and a $75 million education and workforce center to meet the science, technology, engineering, and the arts and mathematics job demand in Syracuse.

As President of SUNY Empire State College, Dr. Malatras reorganized institutional structures to increase efficiencies and enhance the student experience while closing an $11 million budget deficit and ending a decade-long decline in enrollment. He also led a successful Middle States review process, receiving reaccreditation for the maximum period of seven years. Finally he introduced a new logo branding and the College’s first-ever mascot Blue the Bluebird to strengthen the SUNY Empire identity and community.

Dr. Malatras has also led New York State’s new Reimagine Education Advisory Council to assist K-12 schools and colleges adopt technological and other innovations to reopen safely in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. His key role in the Council will greatly contribute to SUNY’s reopening efforts.
Prior to joining SUNY Empire, Dr. Malatras served as President of the Rockefeller Institute of Government, where he led the Institute’s modernization effort to offer policymakers evidenced-based policy analysis and recommendations on timely topics. He previously served at SUNY System Administration as Vice Chancellor of Policy and Chief of Staff.

Dr. Malatras has held several high ranking positions in New York State government. Most recently, he served as Director of State Operations, where he managed the day-to-day operations of state government and served as the administration’s point person on policy. He also served as Governor Cuomo’s Deputy Secretary for Policy Management and as Deputy Director of Policy on Governor Cuomo’s gubernatorial campaign.

Dr. Malatras served as the executive director of the New NY Education Reform Commission from 2012-2014 and as executive director of legislative director to the late former assemblyman Richard L. Brodsky.

Dr. Malatras holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the State University of New York at Albany where he received the Presidential Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award. He also holds an M.A. and B.A. in Political Science from the University at Albany.

A copy of Dr. Malatras’ curriculum vitae is attached.
EDUCATION

May 2008  
**Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science**  
*Presidential Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award*  
Department of Political Science, Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany, State University of New York  
Dissertation: “A Tale of Two Movements; Collective Legal Consciousness: Producing and Employing the Law”, Presidential Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award

**Master of Arts in Political Science**  
Department of Political Science, Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany, State University of New York  

Sept. 1997- May 1999  
**Bachelor of Arts in Political Science**  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
University at Albany, State University of New York

EMPLOYMENT

July 2019- Present  
**President, Empire State College, State University of New York**  
*Saratoga Springs, New York*  
Serves as chief executive officer at SUNY Empire State College. With more than 17,000 students and an $73M operating budget, Empire State College is a distinctive statewide SUNY institution focused on innovative teaching and learning, where college faculty mentors guide learners through designing an individual degree program. Oversees an online program of more than 700 courses and campus facilities in more than 30 locations across that state and 7 international locations.

Feb 2017- July 2019  
**President, Rockefeller Institute of Government, State University of New York**  
*Albany, New York*  
Directs the State University of New York’s nation-leading public policy and research institute that produces cutting-edge evidence-based policy. Runs professional development training and undergraduate internship programs. Manages the forty-plus staff and researchers, budget, external grants, provides expert testimony and research on a host of public policy topics.

Aug 2014- Feb 2017  
**Director of State Operations, New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo**  
*Albany, New York and New York, New York*  
Best described as the State’s Chief Operating Officer, supervised and managed the Governor’s program and policy teams, agency and authority commissioners, and the State’s 120,000-plus workforce from emergency response and management to state workforce contract negotiations. Managed the development and implementation of Governor Cuomo’s policy agenda as well as the State’s $170 billion budget. Was chief negotiator for the Governor in budget and legislative negotiations. Served as a spokesperson at events and for press for the Governor.
Jul 2013- Aug 2014
Vice Chancellor for Policy and Chief of Staff, State University of New York Central Administration, *Albany, New York & New York, New York*

Managed an agency of more than 500 employees including supervising the administration’s operation and budget, as well as other departments such as communications, government affairs, business development, IT, Shared Services, and the Charter Institute, among other departments. Served as the Chancellor’s representative to key system-wide entities, stakeholders and institutes, including the Board of Trustees and campus presidents. Served as a senior advisor to the Chancellor’s Executive team, the Board of Trustees, and the University’s 64 campuses on communications, and all matters of higher education, state and federal policy. Supervised the development and implementation of SUNY’s legislative and budget agenda.

Jan 2011- June 2013
Deputy Secretary for Policy Management, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo *Albany, New York*

Developed the Governor’s major policy initiatives and negotiated enacting proposals with the state legislature. Managed policy staff in the Governor’s office, and executive agencies, to develop and implement the Administration’s agenda in a high-pressure environment. Chief responsibility was the development and strategy to implement the Governor’s annual State of the State address and policy for the Governor’s Executive budget. Worked closely with communications team to shape policy message for press, including policy reports and op-eds. Made speeches and other presentations on behalf of the Governor.

June 2010- Dec 2010
Deputy Director for Policy, Andrew Cuomo 2010, *New York, New York*

Supervised a team of more than ten people, as well as hundreds of policy stakeholders, to develop policy positions for Andrew Cuomo’s successful gubernatorial bid. Primary or secondary author of eight substantive policy books with more than one thousand pages and 200 policies. Prepared special projects for the candidate, including debate preparation. Worked with interest groups to gather support for the candidate.

Nov. 2007- June 2010
Exec. Dir. of Legislative Affairs and State Policy, Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo, *Albany, New York*

Managed the Attorney General’s Legislative Bureau staff and developed the Attorney General’s legislative program. Was liaison to the state legislature and executive for the Attorney General for legislative negotiations. Worked with other bureaus within the Office of the Attorney General to coordinate and monitor legislative activity and regulatory activity. Worked with communications team to organize and manage press for the Attorney General’s legislative program. Worked on special projects and presentations as needed by the Attorney General.

Nov 2003- Sept. 2007
Legislative Director, Assemblyman Richard L. Brodsky, Chairman of the Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee, New York State Assembly, *Albany, New York*

Directed the Assemblyman’s legislative agenda (more than 330 pieces of legislation) including negotiating with the Senate, Governor’s Office and internal Assembly staff and stakeholders and legislative bill drafting. Supervised the committee staff and
Albany legislative staff. Wrote policy positions and provided legal analysis on various issues for the chairman and committee. Was responsible for the management of committee hearings, regulatory proceedings and filings, legal proceedings and other policy functions. Served as Interim Chief of Staff, from January 2006-July 2006 supervising both the Albany and Westchester offices.

Jan. 2001- Nov. 2003

**Policy Analyst, Assemblyman Richard L. Brodsky, Chairman of the Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee, Albany, New York**

Developed policy, wrote white papers and legislation for the Assemblyman in many policy areas including: investment banking, health, labor, nuclear safety, energy, telecommunications and the environment. Worked with state agencies to develop policy guidelines and regulations. Researched legal issues and assisted in drafting legal papers for a series of cases. Assisted the Assemblyman with public hearings, speeches and meetings.

**Volunteer Positions**

- NYS COVID-19 Response Taskforce
- The Egg, Performing Arts Center, Board of Directors
- The New York State Complete Count Commission (2020 Census), Co-Chair
- The Greater Capital Region United Way, Board of Directors
- Better Community Neighborhoods, Inc, Board of Directors

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- Volunteer Instructor, SUNY Empire 2020
  - Presidential Influence on State Policy

- Volunteer Instructor, University at Albany 2017-2018
  - Courses: Law and Policy (Fall 2018)
  - Law, Courts, and Politics (Spring 2018)
  - Presidential Influence on State Policy (Fall 2017)

- Adjunct Instructor, University at Albany 2008
  - Course: Constitutional Law/Civil Liberties (Fall 2008)

- Adjunct Instructor, University at Albany 2004
  - Courses: American Supreme Court (Spring 2004)
  - Constitutional Law/Civil Liberties (Summer 2004)

- Adjunct Instructor, Hudson Valley Community College 2002
  - Course: Substantive Criminal Law

- Adjunct Instructor, University at Albany 2000
  - Course: Senior Seminar in Public Policy (Spring 2000)

- United States Election and Public Law Fellow,
JIM MALATRAS, PH.D.

Hungarian Ministry of Justice,
*Budapest, Hungary* (May 2000-August 2000)

**SELECTED HONORS**

- City and State, Albany Power 100 (2020)
- City and State, Albany Power 100 (2015)
- University at Albany’s Outstanding Young Alumni (2012)
- *The Capitol’s* 40 Under 40 (2011)
- Attorney General’s Performance Award (2008)
- Presidential Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award (2008)
- Rockefeller College Young Alumnus Award (2008)
- Travel Grant, Department of Political Science, SUNY Albany (June 2002)
- Homeless Action Committee Appreciation Award (1999)

**SELECTED ASSOCIATIONS**

- Phi Beta Kappa
- Golden Key National Honor Society
- American Political Science Association
- Law and Society Association
- New York State Political Science Association
- The American Judicature Society
- Albany Citizens’ Police Review Board (2007-08)

**SELECTED POLICY/RESEARCH REPORTS, PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS & MANUSCRIPTS**

Malatras, Jim, Uneven Distribution of Education Aid within Big 5 School Districts in New York State (Albany: Rockefeller Institute of Government, November 14, 2018)


Malatras, Jim, A Roadmap for States and Other Institutional Players to Fill the Climate Change Void (Albany: Rockefeller Institute of Government, April 18, 2018)

Malatras, Jim, Young Joo Park, and Urska Klancnik, Does Education Aid Flow to the Schools that Need it the Most? Low-Performing Schools and the Need for Better Local Spending Data, and the Promise of the Every Student Succeeds Act (Albany: Rockefeller Institute of Government, February 15, 2018)

Malatras, Jim, Opioid Deaths Continue to Surge in New York State (Albany: Rockefeller Institute of Government, March 15, 2018)

Malatras, Jim, Katie Zuber, Gerald Benjamin et al, Review of the Plans Submitted Under the State County-Wide Shared Services Initiative (Albany, Rockefeller Institute of Government, October 17, 2017)

Gais, Thomas, Jim Malatras Alan Wagner, and Young Joo Park, Phase One Analysis of the Teacher Workforce in South Dakota (Albany, Rockefeller Institute of Government, October 2017)


*Book manuscripts in progress*

*Addiction: How Governments Address a National Crisis* with Katie Zuber, Tom Gais, and Heather Trela

*The New York State Executive Budget* with Brian Backstrom and Heather Trela

*Other*


A Burden Too Great to Bear: Addressing the Mounting Student Loan Debt Crisis (Albany: Rockefeller Institute of Government Blog, October 6, 2017)

(Not) Made in America (Albany: Rockefeller Institute of Government Blog, July 1, 2017)


SELECTED OPINION PIECES


“Recent data about school-level funding shows troubling picture” (Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, December 14, 2018)

“Focusing on the Wrong Teacher Shortage Crisis in New York” (City Limits: October 29, 2018)

“Questions Surround the Supreme Court’s Legitimacy” (Empire Report New York, October 11, 2018)

“Excelsior Scholarship a model for nation: Misconceptions cloud project” (Daily Gazette, July 27, 2018)

“Follow state money to individual schools: Attack inequities within districts” (New York Daily News: February 15, 2018)


SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

2018 New York Association of Training & Employment Professionals Annual Conference. Moderator, Aligning Economic & Workforce Development. Syracuse, NY: October 9, 2018

Stories from Sullivan: How a Local Community Responds to the Opioid Crisis, 2018 Annual Conference of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of New York State (ASAP). Syracuse, New York; September 25, 2018 with Katie Zuber

For Many, Is College Out of Reach? paper and presentation. 2018 Annual Conference of the NAPA Standing Panel on Social Equity hosted by the Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs, Baruch College/CUNY. New York City: June 13, 2018

Addiction: How Local Communities Address a National Crisis. Referred conference paper. 2018
Western Political Science Association Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA: March 31, 2018 with Strach, Patricia, Katie Zuber, Elizabeth Pérez-Chiqués


The American Academic Transformation of Law: The State of the Discipline in the Post-Behavioral Revolution delivered at the International Law and Society Association’s 2002 Joint Conference with the Canadian Law and Society in Vancouver, British Columbia on June 1, 2002 with Heather Elise Trela

Legal Mobilization in New York State and the Citizenry’s Ability to Seek Judicial Redress: Access Limitation by Bureaucratic Agencies delivered at the New York State Political Science Association’s 57 Annual Conference at Wagner College on April 11, 2003

Paper “Legal Mobilization in New York State and the Citizenry’s Ability to Seek Judicial Redress: Access Limitation by Bureaucratic Agencies” delivered at the International Law and Society Association’s 2003 Conference in Pittsburgh, PA on June 8, 2003

Legal Consciousness of Social Movements: Framing the Strategies for Mobilizing the Law, submitted to the International Law and Society Association’s 2005 Conference in Las Vegas, NV

Discussant on the Panel, “Law and Social Movements: Institutional and Legal Constraints that Define Social Movements and Political Action: Same Sex Marriage” at the International Law and Society Association’s 2005 Conference in Baltimore, MD

SELECTED RESEARCH GRANTS

Title: Albany County Shared Services & Taxpayer Savings Plan
Amount: $75,000
Term: June 2017-November 2017
Role: Principal Investigator
Lead Institution: Rockefeller Institute of Government
Funder: Albany County, New York

Title: New York State’s County-Wide Shared Services Initiative
Amount: $28,000
Term: September 2017-November 2017
Role: Principal Investigator
Lead Institution: Rockefeller Institute of Government
Funder: New York State Department of State

Title: Delta Air Lines Economic Impact in New York State
Amount: $100,000
Term: November 2017-June 2018
Role: Grant Co-Author
Lead Institution: Rockefeller Institute of Government
Funder: Delta Airlines

Title: Teacher Supply and Demand in Four States
Amount: $50,000
Term: December 2017-December 2018
Role: Principal Investigator
Lead Institution: Rockefeller Institute of Government
Funder: Council of Chief State School Officers

Title: Planning for the Development & Implementation of a Linked Education Data Center for Evidence Based Change in New York State
Amount: $200,000
Term: December 2017-August 2018
Role: Advisor
Lead Institution: Rockefeller Institute of Government
Funder: Carnegie Corp of New York

Title: Implementation of the Albany County Shared Services & Taxpayers Savings Plan
Amount: $100,000
Term: January 2018-December 2019
Role: Principal Investigator
Lead Institution: Rockefeller Institute of Government
Funder: Albany County, New York

Title: Development of the Westchester County Wide Shared Services Plan
Amount: $91,000
Term: April 2018-November 2018
Role: Principal Investigator
Lead Institution: Rockefeller Institute of Government
Funder: Westchester County, New York

Title: Balance of Tax Payments between States and Federal Government
Amount: $49,929
Term: June 2018-October 2018
Role: Grant Co-Author
Lead Institution: Rockefeller Institute of Government
Funder: New York State Division of the Budget

Title: College Affordability in New York State
Amount: $20,000
Term: August 2018-June 2018
Role: Principal Investigator
Lead Institution: Rockefeller Institute of Government
Funder: New York State Higher Education Services Corporation

Title: Empire State Fellows Program
Amount: $78,000
Term: September 2018-June 2019
Role: Principal Investigator
Lead Institution: Rockefeller Institute of Government
Funder: New York Department of State

Title: Disrupting Disparities in Older New Yorkers
Amount: $65,000
Term: July 2018-December 2018
Role: Principal Investigator

Lead Institution: Rockefeller Institute of Government
Funder: AARP

Title: New York Consortium for Research on Education and the Workforce
Amount: $300,000
Term: January 2019-December 2020
Role: Advisor

Lead Institution: Rockefeller Institute of Government
Funder: Carnegie Corp of New York

Title: Early Childhood, First Thousand Days
Amount: $474,988
Term: January 2019-December 2021
Role: Principal Investigator

Lead Institution: Rockefeller Institute of Government
Funder: Pritzker Foundation