

April 26, 2023

To: The University Community

From: Robert J. Zatta, Chair, FDU Board of Trustees

Re: President Avaltroni

Dear FDU Community Members,

I hope everyone has enjoyed a wonderful spring semester and is looking forward to the academic year-end events that are rapidly approaching leading up to Commencement. It has been an exciting semester in many ways, with terrific student accomplishments, outstanding faculty milestones and, of course, the sensational NCAA Tournament run that made history and made FDU a household name. And it's been equally exciting to see the impact that Interim President Michael Avaltroni has had on the entire community since beginning in that role on January 1. He has energized and inspired important developments; he has contributed thoughtful insights and planning strategies that will enhance our programs and services; and he has brought to the presidency exceptional sensitivity, remarkable desire and a relentless sense of energy and momentum that spreads rapidly to his collaborators.

We are fortunate to have him in this role and therefore the Board of Trustees has decided to remove the interim tag and to officially name Dr. Avaltroni as the ninth president in the history of Fairleigh Dickinson.

As most of you know, Dr. Avaltroni has a strong personal connection with the institution and has forged a deep passion for FDU, having been a faculty member and administrator since 2003. He played a leading role in the development of the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and served as dean for nearly a decade, and then moved into the position of University Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. But his passion for FDU began even earlier than that, as he was a student on the Florham Campus and graduated in 1999 with a B.S. in chemistry, *summa cum laude*. In fact, he has now become the first FDU graduate to serve as Fairleigh Dickinson's president.

As interim president, Dr. Avaltroni has led many important initiatives including engaging the community in the strategic planning process that led to the development of the plan titled "FDU Will Soar." This plan provides the basis for efforts across the University, focusing on key areas such as recruitment and retention, and philanthropy and partnerships. Driving the planning process has been a renewed emphasis on putting students first and on prioritizing those items and initiatives that will most significantly and positively impact students.

Among other highlights, FDU received a major gift to help fund a new program called "Transforming College Campuses" (TCC), an initiative to support student psychological well-being. The gift will provide fellowship opportunities to FDU graduate and undergraduate students.

FDU also successfully concluded the capital campaign “One University Many Dreams,” which raised approximately \$90 million, easily surpassing its original goal of \$75 million. The University will soon introduce a new fund-raising campaign focusing exclusively on raising money to help students have access to and better afford an FDU education.

Among other plans being developed include establishing “FDU Health” by leveraging existing programs in nursing, allied health, pharmacy and health sciences and psychology and counseling, as well as creating an FDU Graduate Center with flexible options for students to pursue graduate education and degrees online, on campus and through blended delivery models.

In short, since becoming interim president — and actually far before that in his previous roles — Dr. Avaltroni has made a significant impact and inspired many with his intelligence, passion, empathy and his unrelenting drive and determination to help this institution excel and to provide the support and the education our students need to make their dreams come true. He knows this institution very well, he is aware of the challenges facing FDU and indeed all of higher education, and he has the experience and ability to make a powerful difference. I can think of no better individual to lead the next chapter in the University’s storied history.

I have seen how the community has united to support Dr. Avaltroni, and the Board greatly appreciates the efforts of everyone working together in a period of challenge for higher education. The Board is very confident that, with Dr. Avaltroni’s leadership and your support as a community, the University is on the path toward a bright future and we know that many wonderful opportunities lie ahead for our students to transform their lives.