

Chair Newton remarks

Thank you, President Smith. Your leadership continues to guide the University in countless positive ways. Many of those you articulated and there are many, many more – including managing the University through the challenges brought on by COVID-19 and the changing demographics of high school students in Michigan.

Your commitment to excellence is unwavering – and I have no doubt that it will continue over the next two years. You are already the longest serving president among Michigan's public universities – and your extensive experience continues to serve the Eastern Michigan University community at the highest level.

On behalf of the Board, your statement today is greatly appreciated. It sets the stage for what's next – providing the Board and the University community with sufficient time to plan for a smooth transition that maintains institutional stability and the momentum experienced under your leadership.

In the months ahead, the Board will consult with important constituent groups, including faculty, staff, students, and alumni, and begin a search process to identify candidates who will advance the University's distinctive mission and heritage.

While further details and a timetable have not been established, it is my commitment to the University community to share further updates as those plans are formed.

President Smith, your presidency has been transformational for Eastern Michigan University. We look forward to your continued leadership during the next two years as we embark on the search for your successor.