

Open Letter to the Hartwick College Community

From the Chair of the Board of Trustees

Today forty-one of the seventy-five Faculty members present at a faculty meeting entered a vote of no confidence in the leadership of President Margaret Drugovich. I write as the Chair of the Hartwick College Board of Trustees to state unequivocally that the Board has complete confidence in President Drugovich's leadership. The Faculty's vote is unwarranted and serves only to harm the College. Put quite simply, President Drugovich's leadership over the more than seven years of her presidency is cause for celebration and warrants our deep gratitude. She is totally committed to the College and its students and has strengthened Hartwick through her leadership. President Drugovich has identified issues that need to be addressed and has acted promptly, sometimes taking difficult steps that are the responsibility of a leader. The Board fully supports the difficult choices the administration has had to make. She is completely undeserving of this Faculty vote.

The Board is fully aware of the Faculty's concerns and has agreed to regular meetings with the duly appointed representatives of the Faculty to ensure continued open and productive dialogue on the challenges that Hartwick faces.

Most unsettling about the faculty's vote is that it fails to account for all that President Drugovich has achieved for Hartwick. Her accomplishments are numerous. For example: she has dramatically improved the College's fiscal stability and financial soundness; she has led the immensely successful \$32 million campaign for Hartwick students; through her skilled management she enabled Hartwick to raise the funds through a bond issue needed to ensure a physical plant that provides the means to support Hartwick's mission; she has instituted an academic program review necessary to match Hartwick's academic offerings to the needs of its students; and she has relentlessly pursued policies designed to maintain Hartwick's core values in integrating a liberal arts education with experiential learning. She sees and acts on opportunities that benefit Hartwick and its students, such as the Center for Craft Food and Beverage. Early in her administration President Drugovich worked with all constituencies to define the College's mission. Every action she has taken since has been taken with this mission statement in mind. Through her leadership she has caused the College community to study and consider our programs and the changes that will be necessary to enhance the College's ability to deliver on its promises to its most important constituency – our students – and to maintain financial sustainability. The Board recognizes that even the contemplation of change can be threatening but the Board is confident that through her continued leadership, and the full participation of faculty and staff, Hartwick will identify whether and how it must change and will determine the measures necessary to fully realize its mission.



Francis D. Landrey

Chair Hartwick College Board of Trustees

April 11, 2016