



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK MARITIME COLLEGE

Office of the President

December 21, 2004

Mr. Francis X. Gallo
88 Kingsbury Road
Garden City, NY 11530-3138

Dear Mr. Gallo,

Thank you for taking the time to write concerning the situation between the Alumni Association and the College. Believe me; I join you in hoping we can put this behind us in the coming year. As you know the College is making tremendous progress. Enrollment is at an all-time high, we have added some terrific new faculty and staff, our facilities and the EMPIRE STATE VI continue to be upgraded, and the Regimental program is stronger than ever. To complete this positive transformation, we look forward to consummating an agreement with the Alumni Association.

We have been advised by both SUNY and the New York State Legislative Staff that a handshake agreement was reached this past fall. The terms included the ability for the Association to incorporate in Delaware, to remain a public charity, and to have the Office of the NY State Controller as its auditing body. I was fully prepared to sign off on this agreement, but was told a subsequent written document forwarded by the Association did not resemble the handshake agreement. I spoke with the Chancellor recently, and he believes we should stick with the original mediators who were staff officers of the two senators who strongly support the Alumni Association.

Over the past three years, many alumni and reunion classes have continued to support the College and the Cadets. We have also reengaged alumni who have not been supportive in the past. We are moving forward and it is my hope that the Alumni Association will be part of Maritime's bright future.

I would respectfully suggest the Alumni Leadership return to the previous draft that the NY State Legislative Staff had proposed to the Alumni and SUNY Leadership. Then, instead of writing letters, we can all get on with the important work of supporting the College and our Cadets. I wish you and all the members of the Association a wonderful Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

GO MARITIME!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John R. Ryan".

John R. Ryan
Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.)
President

/srh