President Walker has been meeting with students, faculty/staff, community members and legislators to answer questions related to “Our Path Forward,” a 10-year plan for Edinboro University (EU) presented earlier this month to the campus community and leaders in the broader community. Below is a list of frequently asked questions and responses to them.

**Academic Programs** – What academic programs will be transitioned and when can we expect to learn more about these transitions?

There are a number of program transitions planned. Although the need for state-level approvals for new programs prevents us from providing a definitive timeline for these transitions, the programs we plan to discontinue are no longer being promoted to prospective students. Students currently enrolled in any program at EU will be able to complete that program at EU with no delays or disruptions.

**Student Majors** – Can students elect to switch their major to one of the new programs?

Some programs are being adapted to better prepare students to meet market demands and there will be new offerings as well. Every student will be able to complete the program she/he started at EU. Each student will also have the option to enroll in a new program if they wish. Any student considering a program change should contact their academic advisor to determine if a program change makes sense.

**EU’s Future** – What are projections for EU’s future?

Let there be no doubt, the university’s future is bright. EU has many strong qualities – extraordinary programs, exceptional faculty and staff, and first-class facilities – and we have sufficient financial resources to invest in innovative initiatives that build on those strengths.

Dr. Walker met recently with faculty, staff, students, community members and legislators, to speak about “Our Path Forward,” a 10-year plan that provides a strategy for enhancing the student experience and strengthening student outcomes (careers, graduation and professional schools, etc.) following graduation.

**Enhancing the Center for Career Development** – When will we hire new staff in the Center for Career Development?

Increased staffing in the Center for Career Development is a priority, and a process is underway to achieve that. The university is committed to providing a high-quality collegiate experience for all students and preparing them for outstanding careers after they leave EU. We will initiate a search immediately to bolster our support for career development.

**Admissions Acceptance Rate** – What are we doing to address the acceptance rate? The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that EU accepts 99 percent of students who apply?
Beginning with the incoming fall 2017 class, admissions standards were raised to admit students who are best prepared to succeed at EU. Our admissions standards will increase again next year to ensure that the students who are admitted have better opportunities to succeed here. These same admission criteria will be applied to all programs at our Porreco Center in the Fall of 2017.

Student Engagement – What is the university doing to increase student engagement?

“Our Path Forward” is focused largely on the Edinboro University student experience both inside and outside the classroom. A number of enhancements are already underway and more will be completed during the coming year to ensure a rich experience for students while they are on campus and to more fully prepare them for success after they leave the university. We will be putting increased emphasis on experiential learning opportunities such as internships and collaborative research with faculty, leadership training, and involvement in co-curricular activities such as athletics, membership in clubs and organizations, service opportunities, etc.

Faculty-to-Student Ratio – You mentioned that the number of faculty has been reduced in recent years due to attrition. How will this affect faculty-to-student ratio?

We are making adjustments, which include moving some faculty away from under-enrolled programs to academic areas with a higher concentration of students. The goal of these adjustments is to ensure students continue to get the personalized attention EU has always provided.

While we are maintaining an excess of teaching capacity this year, we are reallocating that excess capacity to develop new academic programs and to better support student success.

Student/Faculty Evaluations – Do student evaluations have any impact on faculty layoffs?

The university will not lay off any tenured or tenure-track faculty members in the coming year. The Collective Bargaining Agreement sets forth very specific guidelines for evaluating faculty. Student evaluations remain important in faculty evaluations and personnel decisions.

What are Plans for the Porreco College? – How will currently enrolled students be affected?

We are in the process of rebranding our Porreco Center away from “The Community’s College” to “EU @ the Porreco Center.” Results should be visible in the coming weeks.

We will be offering new programs at the Porreco Center as early as fall 2018. For EU, the Porreco Center will be focused on attracting adult, bachelor’s degree-seeking students, as well as graduate students. Edinboro’s admissions standards, which are on the rise, will be applied to first-year students entering programs at the Porreco Center beginning with next fall’s incoming class. Currently enrolled students will not be affected by these changes and they will be able to complete the programs they began at the Center.