



Academic & Student Affairs Committee Meeting

BOT approved 02.09.2022

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 10, 2021
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Florida Polytechnic University WEBEX TELE-CONFERENCE MEETING

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Earl Sasser called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Zaira Medina called the roll: Committee Chair Earl Sasser, Trustee Ala' J. Alnaser, Trustee Samantha Ashby, Trustee Narendra Kini were present (Quorum)

Committee Members Not Present: Trustee Laine Powell

Other Trustees Present: Chair Cliff Otto and Trustee Gary Wendt

Staff Present: President Randy Avent, Dr. Terry Parker, Mrs. Kathy Bowman, Dr. Tom Dvorske, Mr. David Calhoun, Mr. David Blanton, Mr. Kevin Calkins, Ms. Melaine Schmiz, Mr. Mike Dieckmann, Dr. Ben Matthew Corpus, Dr. Kathryn Miller, Ms. Penney Farley, Mr. Andrew Konapelsky, Ms. Lydia Guzman, Mrs. Kris Wharton, Ms. Michele Rush, Mrs. Kim Abels, Mr. John Causey and Ms. Zaira Medina

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Trustee Samantha Ashby motioned to approve the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes of September 8, 2021. Trustee Ala' J. Alnaser seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. 2020-22 Academic & Student Affairs Committee Work Plan

Dr. Terry Parker presented the Academic & Student Affairs Committee Work Plan Review 2020-2022. No changes were made.

VI. Provost Report and Discussion

Dr. Parker presented the graduate program tuition fee waiver and the cost of degrees by comparing the traditional support model with an aid-based model at a lowered tuition rate. Trustee Samantha Ashby inquired if the tuition waiver of \$150/credit hour for graduate students affects the average cost of degree from the University standpoint compared to

University of Florida (UF) data. Dr. Parker responded the UF data was presented as 'budget by students,' and in this case, the 'cost by the state' is seen as a positive.

Trustee Gary Wendt inquired why Florida Poly would cut fees. Dr. Parker responded the current market is competitive, and Florida Poly's cost per credit hour is above local competitors such as UCF and USF. Florida Poly is trying to adjust the price point where income is generated for the school while still growing enrollment.

Trustee Wendt further inquired if the University could make up the difference with grants from the Foundation. Dr. Parker replied at the current time this is not an option. There is a fundamental shift in how Florida Poly is resourcing students; right now, the typical graduate student receives a full tuition waiver and stipend support of approximately \$4,800 a year. Florida Poly will transition to a lower tuition rate which will be paid by the student, and in the end, this translates to approximately a \$1M gain for the University.

Trustee Narendra Kini made a motion to recommend approval of an automatic tuition waiver of \$150 per credit hour for all graduate students who are starting graduate school at the University in academic year 2022-23 to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Samantha Ashby seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Parker presented Career Planning Training for Florida Poly students. This training is required by Florida HB1261 (2021), section 1006.75(3)(a), Florida Statutes, whereby each university Board of Trustees must adopt procedures to connect undergraduate students to career planning, coaching, and related programs during the first academic year of the student's enrollment. This requirement will begin in fall 2022. The required procedures will be contained in a Career Planning Training module.

Dr. Parker explained that the Career Planning Training module requires students to setup a handshake profile; requires students to complete a self-assessment of "career readiness"; and directs students to financial information regarding career choices.

Additionally, first year students who do not complete the Career Planning Training module will have a hold placed on their student registration prior to the end of their first year of enrollment at Florida Poly. To lift the registration hold, the student must complete the Career Planning Training module.

Trustee Narendra Kini motioned to recommend approval of the procedure presented for "Florida Poly Career Planning Training" as required by section 1006.75(3)(a), Florida Statutes to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Samantha Ashby seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Parker presented information to support the request for a general tuition and fee waiver, primarily enrollment growth that challenges the University's existing financial aid capacity. A "general" tuition and fee waiver authority is distinct from "special" waivers such as an out-of-state tuition waiver or a graduate tuition waiver. Currently, the increase in waiver authority is necessary to continue to grow the student body and keep the incoming quality of the student at its current level. Dr. Parker explained a large amount of the available financial aid is going to the newest students. As the large entering class progresses to the second year, and as Florida Poly accepts a new class of equal size, the University will naturally have to either decrease the aid per student for next years' entering class or increase the tuition and fee waiver authority.

Trustee Kini inquired if there is an opportunity for graduate students to have a role in research or teaching assistant as a proxy for a waiver. Dr. Parker stated this is not currently offered at Florida Poly.

Trustee Ala' J. Alnaser motioned to recommend approval of \$5M in waiver authority per academic year starting with academic year 2022-23 to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Samantha Ashby seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Parker presented information on the University's student housing needs. For fall 2022, the University is working with Vestcor to convert single rooms to doubles thereby adding approximately 120 beds. Trustee Wendt inquired why developers aren't clamoring to build dorms for Florida Poly. President Avent responded until the University sends out a Request for Proposal (RFP), the number of respondents is unknown. First, Florida Poly must work with a housing consultant to determine need. Trustee Ashby inquired if the University has considered leasing apartments from nearby communities. Dr. Parker responded Florida Poly did reach out this fall and there was extremely limited availability.

Dr. Parker presented the Admissions outlook for fall 2022 as well as the Student Affairs Department student activity. This included the Freshman Initiative which incorporated an 8-week career design course, and a pilot program of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for SACSCOC called Florida Poly PEER which partnered with LearnWell Projects this fall.

Two new degree programs are under development: Master of Science in Engineering Management and Master of Science in Data Science. Intended implementation date for both programs is fall 2022.

Dr. Parker concluded his report by updating the progress of the SACSCOC Accreditation Reaffirmation. A conference call is scheduled with the SACSCOC Vice President on November 23, 2021, and an onsite committee visit planned for February 21-24, 2022.

VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.