



Executive Committee Meeting

BOT approved 04.27.2023

**March 23, 2022
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

Florida Polytechnic University WEBEX TELECONFERENCE MEETING

I. Call to Order

Chair Cliff Otto called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Kris Wharton called the roll: Chair Cliff Otto, Vice Chair Mark Bostick, Trustee Earl Sasser, and Trustee Bob Stork were present (Quorum). Trustee Gary Wendt joined the meeting after the conclusion of agenda item IV.

Executive Committee member not present: Trustee Beth Kigel

Other trustees present: Trustee Narendra Kini

Staff present: President Randy Avent, Provost Terry Parker, Gina DeIulio, Dr. Allen Bottorff, Larry Locke, Dr. Tom Dvorske, Dr. Kathryn Miller, Kristen Wharton, David Blanton, David Calhoun, Alex Landback, Penney Farley, and Melaine Schmiz and were present.

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Naming Opportunity: Engineering Building

Chair Cliff Otto stated Trustee Gary Wendt elected not to participate in this portion of the meeting. Trustee Wendt submitted Form 8A to Kris Wharton, Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees, disclosing a conflict of interest which will be attached to the minutes of this meeting. Gina DeIulio read Trustee Wendt's disclosure into the minutes. Larry Locke, Director, Advancement Operations and COO of the University Foundation, commended Trustee Wendt's generosity, not only of his time and leadership, but also of his generous financial gift in naming the Engineering building slated to begin construction in August 2022. Locke requested approval of the naming of the Engineering building as the "Gary C. Wendt Engineering Building."

Trustee Earl Sasser made a motion to approve the naming request of the Gary C. Wendt Engineering Building. Trustee Mark Bostick seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Resolution: Signature Authority on Depository Accounts

Trustee Narendra Kini joined the meeting at this time.

President Randy Avent introduced Dr. Allen Bottorff, Florida Poly's new Vice President of Administration and Finance. Dr. Bottorff shared a few words of introduction.

Gina DeIulio reminded trustees pursuant to Florida statutes, the Board is responsible for designating and approving the legal name and position title of any University employee authorized to sign checks, pay legal obligations of the University, and transfer funds between accounts for University purposes. Resolution 2022-001 specifies three people who have such designation and authority: Dr. Randy K. Avent, president; Dr. Allen Bottorff, vice president of administration and finance; and Penelope Farley, university controller.

Trustee Earl Sasser made a motion to rescind Resolution 2020-001 and replace it with Resolution 2022-001 Signature Authority on Depository Accounts. Trustee Bob Stork seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Gary Wendt joined the meeting at this time. Chair Otto and Vice Chair Mark Bostick expressed their appreciation to Trustee Wendt for his generous financial gift to the University.

VI. University Housing Update

Provost Terry Parker stated the University has lowered fall 2022 enrollment projections due to lack of housing. This decision protects the rising sophomore class retention rate. The University originally allocated 410 beds to new students. Approximately 100 of those beds were reallocated to rising sophomores. Overall, this produces a decline in expected incoming students by approximately 100. Additionally, data sharing over room reservations with Housing remains a challenge.

Chair Otto asked for clarification if Florida Poly is forcing the reduction of 100 students in the incoming class because of inadequate housing. Provost Parker clarified the University is not forcing this reduction; rather, the University has accepted these applicants. Applicants must choose the university they will attend by May 1. If they select Florida Poly, make their deposit, yet find they cannot obtain a lease because housing is full, they will decline to come.

Provost Parker stated the availability of off-campus housing is minimal and no managers of nearby apartment complexes want to enter into an agreement with the University. Florida Poly will connect students to off-campus housing opportunities and increase transportation from campus to the apartment complexes.

Regarding doubling up of dorm rooms which Trustee Bob Stork inquired about, Provost Parker has had moderate success with the Housing partner in increasing the number of beds in the dorms from 748 in fall 2021 to 796 in fall 2022. Modular housing is not an economically viable solution and high-speed construction, while viable, would not be ready for fall 2022.

Trustee Wendt expressed disappointment with lowering enrollment projections and suggested administration find a way to house all incoming students. President Avent replied administration is also unhappy with turning students away, and Provost Parker and his team are working diligently to find beds. Not owning both dorms is a large restriction. Additionally, state funds cannot be used for modular housing and the University doesn't have enough funds in auxiliaries to pay for them.

Trustee Earl Sasser asked how many beds are still available. Provost Parker reiterated the challenges the University has with the Housing company in obtaining that data. He can confirm that 440 housing request forms have come through admissions from new students, with approximately 250 executed leases. The University offered to buy furniture to make single rooms doubles and the Housing company refused the offer.

After much discussion, Trustee Stork asked to review the contracts for the two dorms and offered to talk with the owner of the Housing company to discover what is keeping him from accommodating the University's housing needs.

Regarding the bridge loan, President Avent stated Ben Watkins, Commission of Bond Financing, said he would not support a bridge loan. Watkins recommended obtaining financing to buy dorms 2 and 3 at the same time.

VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.