



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

BOT approved 08.21.2023

**Wednesday, June 14, 2023
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Florida Polytechnic University
Applied Research Center and via WebEx**

I. Call to Order

Chair Cliff Otto called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Kristen Wharton called the roll: Chair Cliff Otto, Vice Chair Beth Kigel, Trustee Ajeet Kaushik, Trustee Melia Rodriguez, Trustee Mark Bostick, Trustee Lyn Stanfield, Trustee Bob Stork, Trustee Laine Powell, Trustee David Williams, and Trustee Gary Wendt were present (Quorum).

Trustees not present: Trustee Narendra Kini

Staff present: President Randy Avent, Provost Terry Parker, Dr. Allen Bottorff, Kathy Bowman, David Blanton, Mike Dieckmann, David Fugett, Melaine Schmiz, Dr. Michael Brilleslyper, Lauren Mariano, Michelle Disson, Maggie Mariucci, and Kristen Wharton were present.

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Board of Trustees Work Plan FY23

Chair Otto reviewed the Board of Trustees Work Plan. He noted that two items in the June work plan, the Civil Discourse report and the president's 360 review, will be moved to the September meeting agenda. There was no further discussion on this item.

V. Chairman's Remarks

Chair Otto declined to make additional remarks and moved forward to the next agenda item.

VI. President's Remarks

President Randy Avent commended Dr. Allen Bottorff, Provost Terry Parker, and David Fugett for their hard work that has led to building Residence Hall III and purchasing Residence Hall II. He stated the University has a great year ahead and thanked the Trustees for all they do in support of Florida Poly.

VII. Legislative Session Report

Lauren Mariano, Legislative Affairs Officer reviewed her legislative activity in Tallahassee throughout the spring months. This included multiple visits to the capitol by President Avent and members of Florida Poly's Student Government Association to speak with legislators about the University.

Mariano reviewed Florida Poly's projected funding for FY24 based on the pre-veto budget. Funding includes new money for recruitment and retention in the amount of \$12.5M given to institutions in the SUS who do not receive preeminence funding. It also includes a \$5M recurring increase to the University's base budget and \$5.8M for Performance Based Funding (PBF). Florida Poly's base budget will increase 56% from FY23, pending Governor approval.

Numerous bills pertaining to higher education passed through legislation during this year's Session. For ease of presentation, Mariano ranked them by high, moderate and low impact to Florida Poly, and focused the rest of her presentation on three high-impact bills.

1. SB266: Higher Education: this Bill requires the Board of Governors (BOG) to review each university's mission, make updates, and review academic programs to ensure alignment with the mission. It also includes such items as assigning final hiring authority for the provost and fulltime faculty to the president who may delegate to the executive team; requiring the president to provide a report and recommendations on employment practices to the BOT twice annually; requiring the BOT to review the president's selection and reappointment of the executive management team; and requiring the president to annually present performance evaluations and salaries of personnel earning \$200,000 or more to the BOT.

Vice Chair Beth Kigel inquired if the Board will simply review the president's selection and reappointment of the executive management team or if approval is required. Staff will review each of these bills in fine detail to understand where review only is required versus actual approval.

Mariano continued reviewing SB266, including prohibited expenditures and requirements regarding general education courses. Trustee Lyn Stanfield asked if students organizations such as the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and other engineering societies will continue to receive financial support. Trustee Melia Rodriguez confirmed they will continue to be funded through the SGA which is funded through the activity and service fees that students pay annually.

2. HB931: Postsecondary Educational Institutions: this Bill covers requirements regarding university personnel, the creation of an Office of Public Policy Events, and the Florida Student Association (FSA). Trustee Laine Powell inquired if the State included funding for the Office of Public Policy Events to which Mariano replied no, it will be university funded.
3. SB240: Education: this Bill covers requirements regarding Workforce Education Partnership Programs, and a review of statewide articulation agreements. There is no additional State funding to the universities for establishing workforce programs.

Trustee Stanfield asked, given the additional burden the University will incur without remuneration, what is the projected financial burden. Mariano stated it is difficult to project at this point. Maggie Mariucci noted that Melaine Schimiz, Associate General Counsel, is leading a task force to identify all of the requirements listed in all of the Bills that passed legislation along with potential costs associated with each.

Mariano briefly reviewed moderate-impact bills. Trustee Powell inquired if there will be any

impact to faculty and faculty recruitment in regard to SB7024 – Retirement. Mariano stated there will be a \$150k-200k impact; however, it does not impact the benefits, only how the benefits are paid for.

Mariano concluded her presentation by reviewing the 2024 Session plan. This includes working on the University’s legislative priorities of Engineering Excellence and the Student Achievement Center (SAC) for the next Legislative Session which begins January 9, 2024.

VIII. Consent Agenda

Chair Otto brought forward the consent agenda for trustee approval.

A. Finance and Facilities Committee

1. Approve the University Operating Budget FY24
2. Approve the Compass Group USA, Inc. Food Services Contract Amendment No. 6
3. Approve the University FY23 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Amendment
4. Approve the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY25
5. Approve amendment to the original motion of the Engineering Building 1 project
6. Approve amendment to the original motion on Residence Hall II acquisition
7. Approve amendment to the original motion of the Residence Hall III project
8. Approve Public Safety and Campus Operation Center project
9. Approve Applied Research Center Skanska Change Order No. 20
10. Approve the 2025 Legislative Budget Request (LBR)
11. Approve the following Appointments/ Reappointments to the University Foundation Board of Directors:

Reappointments

- Travis Hills
- Justin Hollis
- Cady Johnson
- Adrian Muhammad
- Ryan Perez
- Michael Tschanz
- Ryan Whitemore

New Appointments

- John Curls, Jr.
- Alen Tomczak

12. Approve the Foundation’s Planned Uses of University Personnel and Property (FY24)

B. Governance, Audit, and Compliance Committee

1. Approve proposed regulation FPU-5.0084 Credit for Military Trainings, Courses, and Occupations
2. Approve proposed repeal of policy FPU-5.0084AP Course Credit for Military Trainings and Courses
3. Approve proposed regulation FPU-5.0072 Examination and Assessment Instruments
4. Approve the President’s Operational Goals for FY2024

C. Board of Trustees

Approve minutes from March 15, 2023

As each of the consent agenda items comes before the Board with unanimous approval from the respective Committees, there is no need for a second. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Governance, Audit, and Compliance Committee

Committee Chair Mark Bostick stated the Committee heard reports from David Blanton including the status of all external audits and University Audit & Compliance activities and plans. Blanton presented the Foundation's 2021 Form 990 for FY22, the University financial audit for FY22, and the Auditor General's IT Operational Audit. To avoid the possibility of compromising the confidentiality of University Data and related IT resources, the latter report's focus was on the public audit report. The Committee requested that Blanton perform an internal audit as follow-up and also requested a deeper dive into the cybersecurity threats that exist globally and potential future risks and threats for the University.

David Fugett brought 2 proposed regulations before the Committee: FPU-5.0072 Examination and Assessment of Instruments and FPU-8.0084 Credit for Military Training, Courses, and Organizations. Additionally, one policy was brought before the Committee for repeal, FPU-5.0084AP Course Credit for Military Trainings and Courses as it is being replaced with the proposed regulation. The Committee voted to recommend approval of the presented Regulations and the repeal of the policy, and all were approved on today's consent agenda.

Finally, the Committee heard President Avent's Operational Goals for 2023-24. The Committee voted to recommend the approval of these goals, which were approved on today's consent agenda.

B. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Committee Chair David Williams stated the Committee heard a report from Provost Terry Parker which covered a five-year forecast of fall enrollment numbers, the growth of the student affairs department over the past year, the addition of the Industrial and the Civil Engineering degrees, a successful faculty hiring season, and Performance Based Funding (PBF) metrics. To further build on the results of this year's student success plan, the University is launching two new initiatives: *Get 50* (aimed at achieving a 50% four-year graduation rate) and *Get 90* (aimed at achieving a 90% academic progression rate).

There were no approval items required of the Committee.

C. Finance and Facilities Committee

Committee Chair Beth Kigel stated the Committee received the University's financial results for the quarter ended March 31, 2023, and noted strong financial ratios and an increase of 32.3% in net position over the previous year. This increase was solely accounted for, and a direct result of, the recent dormitory bond proceeds for the Florida Poly Student Housing System.

The Committee also heard updates on student housing, campus construction projects, Advancement, and the Foundation's FY23 third quarter financial results. Multiple action items from this Committee were approved on today's consent agenda.

D. Strategic Planning Committee

As the full Board had opportunity to participate and hear the Strategic Planning Committee meeting, Committee Chair Gary Wendt rescinded his time and turned the meeting back over to the Chair.

X. Title IX Overview

Michelle Disson, Title IX and ADA Coordinator presented information on sexual misconduct and the Title IX process. Trustee Wendt inquired if trustees are allowed to know how often this type of issue occurs; Disson explained incidents are reported annually in the Clery Report which is accessible to the public. She further explained when misconduct is covered under Title IX versus the University's policy on sexual misconduct.

XI. Faculty Presentation: The State of Mathematics at Florida Poly: Opportunities & Challenges

Dr. Michael Brilleslyper, Professor and Chair of the Applied Mathematics department presented how his department supports all degree programs at Florida Poly. He also explained the composition and purpose of the certificate in applied mathematics. Many students entering Florida Poly are not proficient in algebra and trigonometry skills and struggle to apply what they know. Brilleslyper explained how the math department is addressing those challenges.

Trustee Stork asked what the faculty to student ratio is; it varies from 30 to 1 to 50 to 1. The addition of six new faculty will help lower this ratio.

Chair Otto inquired if calculus skills are improving, getting worse, or remaining the same. Brilleslyper believes it is the same. He confirmed for Trustee Powell that an assessment is conducted to determine a student's skill level when they enter the University and that all students have access to tutoring to assist in increasing their skills.

XII. Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule

A motion was made by Trustee Lyn Stanfield to approve the 2024-2025 Board meeting schedule as presented. Trustee Melia Rodriguez seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Board of Governors Meeting Schedule

Chair Otto shared the next Board of Governors meeting will be held at USF in Tampa on June 21-22, 2023.

XIV. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kristen J. Wharton
Corporate Secretary