



Academic & Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee approved 11.06.2023

**September 21, 2023
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM**

**Florida Polytechnic University
VIRTUAL VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair David Williams called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Kristen Wharton called the roll: Committee Chair David Williams, Committee Vice Chair Narendra Kini, Trustee Melia Rodriguez, Trustee Laine Powell, and Trustee Lyn Stanfield were present (Quorum)

Committee members not present: Trustee Ajeet Kaushik

Other Trustees Present: Board Chair Cliff Otto, Board Vice Chair Beth Kigel, Trustee Gary Wendt, Trustee Mark Bostick

Staff Present: President Randy Avent, Provost Terry Parker, Dr. Allen Bottorff, David Fugett, David Blanton, Mike Dieckmann, Kristen Wharton, Melaine Schmiz, Maggie Mariucci, Kevin Calkins, and Dr. Kathryn Miller

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Approval of the June 7, 2023, Minutes

Trustee Narendra Kini motioned to approve the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes of April 27, 2023. Trustee Laine Powell seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Work Plan

Committee Chair David Williams noted several updated items in the Committee's annual work plan, including the addition of one item pertaining to SB 266 – "Review and Approve General Education Course Requirements." There were no questions by the Committee.

A motion was made by Trustee Melia Rodriguez to approve the revised 2022-2024 Academic and Student Affairs Committee Work Plan. Trustee Lyn Stanfield seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Provost's Report

Provost Terry Parker began his report by reviewing the recently released US News and World Report rankings. He then reviewed the textbook affordability report, stating the percentage of course sections meeting the statute requirement for fall 2022 was 99.3% and 100% for spring 2023. There were no questions on this item.

A motion was made by Trustee Melia Rodriguez to recommend approval of the Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report for academic year 2023 to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Laine Powell seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Provost Parker reviewed the University's activities in support of civil discourse, including the newly formed Office of Public Policy Events. Additionally, he covered accreditation activity stating the University enters ABET reaccreditation in four academic programs this year.

Trustee Gary Wendt asked what Provost Parker attributes the YOY decline in admissions to, to which Provost Parker replied lack of on-campus housing as the primary cause. Provost Parker stated the University is making a strategic shift in enrollment strategies which includes a change in leadership, different marketing approaches, and increased brand awareness campaigns. As a result, early trends in fall 2024 FTIC applications show a significant increase.

Provost Parker reviewed improvements made in housing leasing operations, career services, on-campus activities, and the four-year graduation rate improvement plan.

Regarding faculty, Provost Parker noted that the University hired 21 new faculty in the past year; he also presented the faculty population by department, rank, and the incoming faculty population in terms of diversity. Based on employment availability versus the faculty the University onboards, Trustee Lyn Stanfield inquired if the University is recruiting and interviewing diverse talent and if the University is missing potential applicants. Discussion occurred between Trustee Stanfield, Provost Parker and President Avent on branding and marketing the University in such a way that is attractive to all potential applicants.

The University developed a 4+1 program which is an entry path for Florida Poly's graduate programs. Currently, ten students are enrolled in one graduate course per semester in their senior year, earning six of their 36 graduate degree hours as an undergraduate student.

Trustee Melia Rodriguez asked Provost Parker to explain the engagement sequence referenced earlier in his presentation. Provost Parker shared how it addresses retention rates by injecting a project-based learning experience within a targeted class in each semester from freshman to senior year. Trustee Rodriguez asked what the major shortfalls in retention are and what the University is doing to address them; Provost Parker responded, 1) disengaged students (particularly freshman year), 2) poorly prepared students, and 3) instruction quality. He reviewed actions that have been taken to address all three of these issues, such as implementing the engagement sequence, providing additional learning support, and adding additional faculty training.

VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kristen J. Wharton
Corporate Secretary