

**FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
Florida Polytechnic University Admissions  
Center  
4700 Research Way  
Lakeland, FL 33805  
March 16, 2016 at 1:00 PM**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Mark Bostick called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 12:50 p.m.

Maggie Mariucci called the roll: Chair Mark Bostick, Vice Chair Frank Martin, Trustee Christina Drake, Trustee Sandra Featherman, Trustee Richard Hallion, Trustee Veronica Perez-Herrera, Trustee Bob Stork and Trustee Don Wilson were present (Quorum).

Staff present: President Randy Avent, Gina DeIulio, Tom Hull, Crystal Lauderdale, Maggie Mariucci, Rick Maxey, Mark Mroczkowski, Dr. Elhami Nasr, and Scott Rhodes were present.

II. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

III. Approval of Minutes

**Trustee Sandra Featherman made a motion to approve the Board of Trustees meeting minutes of December 2, 2015. Trustee Bob Stork seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

IV. Chairman's Remarks

Chair Mark Bostick stated he has been asked by Governor Scott to serve on a Presidential Search and Selection Work Group.

It was noted by Chair Bostick the SACSCOC accreditation team was on campus March 7-10 to conduct a site visit.

Chair Bostick extended congratulations to Trustees Richard Hallion, Bob Stork and Don Wilson on their recent reappointment by the Florida Senate to the Board of Trustees, and to Trustees Sandra Featherman and Frank Martin on their reappointment by the Board of Governors. Chair Bostick noted three Board of Trustees vacancies remain which are all Governor appointees.

V. President's Remarks

President Randy Avent reported the University is being aggressive in the area of faculty hiring. At the request of faculty, they have been more active in the areas of curriculum and scheduling. There are currently 25 slots approved; however, actual faculty hiring may end up closer to 35.

President Avent also noted hiring searches are on-going for the following staff positions:

- Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs – The national search for this position has begun. The University is using R. William Funk & Associates to assist in the search. Mr. Funk has indicated he has a good group of candidates.
- Vice President of Advancement – This is a national search being conducted by R. William Funk & Associates. Interviews have begun for this position.
- Director of Strategic Business and Education Partnerships – Interviews have begun with some very good candidates.
- Director of Institute for Health Informatics – The search for this position has begun.
- Vice President and CIO – Tom Hull recently resigned. His replacement will report directly to Mark Mroczkowski, CFO, rather than to the President which is consistent with what is done by some other institutions. The search has not begun for this position yet.

President Avent indicated the University is going to be deliberate in moving to a cloud-based architecture as it reduces costs in the long term and has a good return on investment. This will be primarily on the administrative side and much less on the faculty side.

It was also noted by President Avent that a representative from Georgia Tech has been hired to assist with the development of the Institute of Technology Entrepreneurship.

President Avent reported that meetings of the Budget Council have begun. By using the Strategic Plan, they will determine the past year's accomplishments and come up with an Operational Plan to which everyone contributes. The Operational Plan then goes to the Board of Trustees for approval as the University's goals for the next year. The goals should be complete by the end of April 2016. Additionally, a list of accomplishments for the past year is being worked on which should also be complete the end of April 2016. Each department has started to work on their budget requests for next year.

President Avent reported Crisis Communication Exercises took place on the Main Campus on February 17, 2016.

It was also reported by President Avent that a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) has been signed with UNIFEBE (Centro Uiversitario de Brusque) in Brazil which will provide students the opportunity to study abroad, internships, and research partnerships.

President Avent also announced the following promotions:

- Kathryn Miller – Vice Provost of Academic Affairs
- Dr. Steve Warner – Vice Provost of Student Affairs

President Avent reported the concept of seed funding has been looked at as well as the possibility of signing bonuses for faculty. Along this line, the University has created start-up packages for faculty which can be used to begin their research, hire students, pay themselves summer salary, or purchase equipment for their labs.

It was also noted by President Avent that significant investments in equipment have taken place with the challenge being to find appropriate locations for the equipment as adequate research space continues to be a problem.

President Avent also reported the University has been successful in receiving its first funding for the Applied Research Center from the Board of Governors; however, the vote has yet to be approved. It appears The University may need to look at an offsite location this facility.

President Avent also shared that Dr. Christina Drake is putting together a group of students for a Human-Powered Vehicle Competition. This is a national competition and was held at the University of Florida last year where Florida Polytechnic won "Safest Vehicle". This year the competition will be held at Ohio University. Most teams attending this competition are sponsored, run by graduate students, and are a part of a senior capstone project.

Lastly, President Avent reported two students developed, organized, promoted, and held a "Hackathon", sponsored by the Student Government Association, without assistance from staff or faculty. The premise was to come up with an idea/concept and then create it in a 24 hour period. 134 students from around Florida participated. Florida Poly took 2<sup>nd</sup> Place.

## VI. Legislative Session Update and BOG Report Out

Rick Maxey began his report by stating the Legislature no longer looks at Florida Poly as the "new kid on the block". The University is now viewed as an asset. In fact, the Governor left the University off his "veto list". This is due to the support and efforts of many across the state on behalf of Florida Polytechnic.

Rick stated Florida Polytechnic was given an operating budget increase of just under \$4M. \$2.5M of that amount was in support of an Institute for Technology Entrepreneurship. The concept provides a vehicle to help our students and faculty establish companies to market the products developed from their research.

President Avent stated the consultant recently hired from Georgia Tech has put together an Advisory Board of local area entrepreneurs. The question that came out of the first meeting is "Why are immigrants generally so successful in starting new businesses?" One of the main reasons is that for an individual to leave a country and family to start a new business they have to be willing to take risks. In like manner, why are our students willing to take a risk to attend Florida Poly when the University is not yet fully accredited? First, our students tend to be much more entrepreneurial-minded because they are risk takers. Secondly, the University has put together a program where students build and solve real world problems every year. And third, we have high-tech STEM disciplines. These three attributes put Florida Poly students at a high advantage for starting up companies. The University has a goal of having 20% of students involved in start-up companies each year.

Rick reported the second operating issue for which money was provided is the continuation of an anti-hazing training program which is targeted to first-time college students across the SUS in the Fall of 2016.

Additionally, \$5M was received to begin the planning of the University's Applied Research Center. This is a \$35M project. The strategy is to request construction money next year (\$20-\$25M) and then request the remainder of the funding the following year to equip and furnish the building. This is normally a 3-5 year cycle.

Rick also informed the Board the statute requirement deadline has been changed from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2017.

The total Session Outcomes are listed below. Rick stated these outcomes are a good indication the Legislature believes in what Florida Polytechnic is doing.

<u>Budget Issue</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>	<u>Appropriated Amount</u>
Applied Research Center	\$12,132,420	\$5,000,000
Institute for Technology Entrepreneurship	\$5,000,000	\$2,500,000
National STEM Education Lab	\$329,000	\$0
Center for Applied Economic Research	\$500,000	\$0
Anti-hazing Training	\$0	\$1,423,997
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$17,961,420</b>	<b>\$8,923,997</b>

Rick reported some changes have been made to statutes. The Legislature wants the Board of Trustees to examine any variances in textbook costs for sections of the same course and provide feedback to the Chancellor. Second, they have requested the Board determine if there are any frequent changes in textbooks required for a particular course. And, third, they have requested the Board adopt policies that allow for pricing techniques. No definition was provided; however, the hope is each Board will research how best to keep book and instructional materials costs down, even if it is just a recommendation. A report will be provided to the Board of Governors.

Rick also stated the meeting notice requirements for the Board of Trustees meetings when here are discussions relating to tuition/fee increases has been changed; notification of such meetings must be posted 8 days prior meeting.

Additionally, changes to SUS Performance Funding have been made. Florida Poly is not currently a part of performance funding. In the current system, if a university does not score above a certain cutoff, 50% of the money contributed by the University will be taken. With the new changes, 50% was changed to 100%. There is also going to be a designation between the institutional criteria and the state criteria. Also, a wage component is being added to performance funding, accounting for the value of the BS degree. The institutional investment to the SUS Performance Funding is determined by the Legislature. Trustee Stork inquired whether Florida Poly's institutional investment would be based upon our current FTE. Rick will provide this information after the meeting. Lastly, Rick mentioned Florida Poly's entry into the SUS Performance Funding is determined by the Board of Governors. The earliest likely date for Florida Poly's involvement in the SUS Performance Funding is 2018.

Rick provided the Legislative Session dates for next year. Session will begin March 7, 2017, and end May 5, 2017. A bill has passed stating in 2018 a return to a January start for every year will occur.

Rick reported the following are the 2017 Session Goals:

- Obtain \$25M for Applied Research Center
- Convert \$4M non-recurring to recurring

## VII. SACSCOC Update

President Avent provided an overview of the SACSCOC accreditation process. President Avent then provided an overview of the University's progress to date. President Avent stated SACSCOC has been very good to Florida Poly and allowed the University to submit a pre-application in December 2014. Based on the pre-application, but prior to having collected the necessary assessment data, input was provided by SACSCOC. The academic assessment data was submitted at the conclusion of the spring semester in summer 2015. Dr. Ann Chard of SACSCOC stated in August 2015 the application looked good and the only item still needed was the third financial audit. The University worked with the Auditor General to compress the timeline and possibly receive the audit by August 2015; however, due to difficulties with the Florida pension fund, that did not occur. Because the audit was not received until January 2016, SACSCOC granted the University leniency. However, in October 2015, based on the interim report, it was believed the University's financials were in good order and granted the University permission to proceed.

At that time, Dr. Mary Kirk was assigned to Florida Poly as the University's SACSCOC representative to work with the University all the way through accreditation. President Avent met with Dr. Kirk in December 2015 to discuss the schedule for candidacy. Dr. Kirk reviewed Florida Poly's application and along with the approval of Dr. Chard made a recommendation to Dr. Belle Whelan, President of SACSCOC, to allow the University to forego the first CNR Committee meeting. Based on the strength of the University's application, this was granted by Dr. Whelan in December 2015, which allowed Florida Poly to move directly to a site visit. The site visit was conducted March 7-10, 2016.

Based upon the site visit, a report is generated by the site visit team and presented to the CNR Committee. The CNR Committee will make a yes/no decision based on the site visit team report. This will occur in June 2016. Technically, the University should not go before the CNR Committee in June as the University is supposed to be granted a specific amount of time to respond to any findings in the report. However, Florida Poly is in the process of drafting a letter to Dr. Whelan requesting that the response time period be waived and that she include the University in the June 2016 CNR Committee agenda. President Avent indicated he is hopeful for a positive report and that Florida Poly is placed on the June 2016 CNR Committee agenda.

President Avent continued by providing the requirements for compliance certification:

1. Successful candidacy application
2. Graduate a class in the University's most advanced degree
3. Complete the compliance certification application

The University has been working parallel on the both the candidacy application and the compliance certification application. The first draft of the compliance certification application is complete. President Avent meets weekly to refine the document.

President Avent indicated his plan, dependent upon receiving word of approval of the candidacy application in June, was that the compliance certification application would be submitted the same day. Again, any required response time would be waived. However, upon meeting with Dr. Kirk in February 2016 for an advisory meeting, the University was informed SACSCOC will not allow both a candidacy visit and an accreditation visit in the same calendar year. There is a SACSCOC policy stating once the University is accredited, it back-accredits the institution within the calendar year. Therefore, if the candidacy visit were to occur in June and the

accreditation visit in December, the University would actually be back-accredited before it was a candidate. Additionally, in terms of data collection, the Committee wants to see another full year cycle of assessment data prior to accreditation.

President Avent reassured the Board this is nothing brought on by the University, but is a SACSCOC ruling. President Avent had discussions with both Dr. Kirk and Dr. Whelan for input and further instructions. President Avent called the Board of Governors staff, Chancellor Criser, and members of the committee to inform them of this latest information. Additionally, an official email was sent to the students and was also provided to the media. President Avent met with the graduate students (6 students) to determine and minimize any impact this may have on them. It is expected there will be little to no impact on undergraduate students. There are no undergraduate students planning to graduate May 2016 and possibly one or two planning to graduate in December, 2016, which the University is working with to determine impact, if any. Additionally, Scott Rhodes and the Admissions team are calling all in-coming students to provide information and address any possible concerns.

President Avent reported he met with Dr. Kirk to develop a timeline for a 2017 accreditation. The University is working hard to make certain students do not graduate from an institution that is unaccredited.

Trustee Sandra Featherman stated she believes the University is in remarkably good condition and recognized that SACSCOC is being extremely accommodating to Florida Poly. She also stated agreement that the University should not jeopardize their current good standing with SACSCOC by attempting to pressure a change in the timeline. Vice Chair Frank Martin concurred and noted that in two instances SACSCOC has waived items in their procedure to allow Florida Poly to continue. He noted no other university has accomplished what has been done by the University in 1.5 years.

Trustee Veronia Perez-Herrera inquired if students will be eligible in June 2016 for federal funding once candidacy has been achieved. Scott Rhodes reported, should the University receive candidacy in June 2016, the application to be eligible for federal funding will go out the same day. The approval can take 3-12 months, but is typically 2-3 months. Students can receive federal funding once the application is approved.

Trustee Bob Stork made the suggestion a point paper be created indicating where the University has been, what has been accomplished, and how accreditation will be achieved. Also, emphasizing what is being done to protect the students.

#### VIII. Academic Quality and Calculus Success

Jhojana Infante, Data Analyst for Institutional Research, provided a presentation regarding the academic quality of Florida Polytechnic students and its correlation to calculus success. Jhojana has been working with two graduate students, Jennifer Kindle and Langley Payton, on this project.

- Performance Funding Metrics
- Predicting Success
- Root Cause Analysis
- Retention Initiatives

The summary of the presentation is as follows:

- Academic Quality
  - Florida Poly has good incoming student quality, but low calculus success rate.
  - The calculus course is rigorous, but fundamental for students.
- Predicting Success
  - Previous pre-calculus experience and recentness of that experience has the highest impact on student success.
  - Early studies of GRIT and calculus success are being conducted at Florida Poly.
- Retention Initiatives
  - Retention initiatives have been implemented with continuous improvement.

Trustee Don Wilson inquired regarding statistics comparing before and after success rates. Jhojana reported before the implementation of the performance measures, 50% of the students were receiving D/F grades. Now those students are receiving a C grade or better.

Trustee Bob Stork questioned why the success rate for the students using modules is higher than those using one-on-one tutoring. Jhojana indicated this appears to be due to the amount of time spent by the students within the modules.

Trustee Sandra Featherman inquired if most of the students who are contacted regarding needing assistance accept the help. Jhojana stated most of the students do take advantage of the assistance.

#### IX. 2016-2017 Board of Trustees Calendar

There was brief discussion regarding the Board of Trustees 2016-17 calendar, specifically regarding the second Campus Master Plan Public Hearing scheduled for September 13, 2016. Gina DeIulio, General Counsel, stated the Board must attend the Public Hearing in person. It is possible the Public Hearing may be combined with the Board meeting scheduled for September 14, 2016.

**Trustee Don Wilson made a motion to approve the 2016-17 Board of Trustees Calendar. Trustee Bob Stork seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### X. Committee Reports

##### *Finance and Facilities Committee*

Chair Frank Martin stated there are three items being brought to the Board for approval. Additionally, three policies were approved and are being moved to the Consent Agenda. One policy was removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion by the full Board.

##### A. Approval of Shared Services Transition Plan

Pursuant to the Board of Trustees mandate to transition from the University of Florida to a self-sufficient operation, the University provided the Committee with a Shared Services Transition Plan.

**Chair Frank Martin presented a motion with full Committee approval to approve the Shared Services Transition Plan. Trustee Don Wilson seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

B. Approval of Campus Naming

Chair Frank Martin reported it was recommended by the Committee that the main campus be named the “JD Alexander Campus”. Although this item has been brought before the Board once before, it had not gone before the Foundation Board as required by policy. This item went before the Foundation Board on January 15, 2016, and was unanimously approved and now comes to the Board of Trustees for approval.

**Chair Frank Martin presented a motion with full Committee approval to approve the naming of the main campus on Research Way the “JD Alexander Campus”. Trustee Bob Stork seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

C. Approval of Resolution for Signature Authority

Florida Statutes Section 110.42 requires signature authority be established for university depository accounts. This resolution not only provides this authority for Florida Polytechnic University, but it is necessary to complete the transition of treasury services from University of Florida to Florida Polytechnic University.

**Chair Frank Martin presented a motion with full Committee approval to approve the resolution for signature authority (attached). Trustee Bob Stork seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Martin also reported a Facilities Update was presented by David Calhoun and this will be a standing item moving forward.

*Academic and Student Affairs Committee*

Chair Sandra Featherman reported updates were presented in the following areas:

- Spring 2016 Census Enrollment
- Admissions
- Provost’s Office

*Strategic Planning Committee*

Chair Bob Stork reported the committee heard updates from staff regarding:

- Marketing and Communications
- Industry Partnerships

*Audit and Compliance Committee*

Chair Don Wilson reported there are two items requiring Board action:



A. Approval of Operational Audit by Auditor General

**Chair Don Wilson presented a motion with full Committee approval to approve the Operational Audit by the Auditor General. Trustee Bob Stork seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

B. Approval of Financial Audit by Auditor General

**Chair Don Wilson presented a motion with full Committee approval to approve the Financial Audit by the Auditor General. Trustee Frank Martin seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

*Consent Agenda*

**Trustee Sandra Featherman made a motion to remove Item A (FPU-4.006 Third Time Repeat Course Fee Exemption) from the Consent Agenda for further discussion by the full Board. Trustee Frank Martin seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Trustee Sandra Featherman made a motion to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda (FPU-5.0096AP Graduate Degree Graduation Requirements, FPU-5.0094AP Bachelor Degree Graduation Requirements, and FPU-1.010 Use of Skateboards, Skates, Scooters and Similar Devices and High Risk Activities). Trustee Veronica Perez-Herrera seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Trustee Sandra Featherman noted Item A (Policy FPU-4.006 Third Time Repeat Course Fee Exemption) was discussed and approved in the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting; however, was removed from the Consent Agenda to signal that in the future when items for approval cross the boundaries of Academic Affairs, those items also be brought to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

**Trustee Sandra Featherman made a motion to approve policy FPU-4.006 Third Time Repeat Course Fee Exemption. Trustee Bob Stork seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Bostick noted the Board of Trustees retreat will occur June 1-2, 2016 (location TBD).

Trustee Don Wilson requested President Avent inform the trustees of Board of Governors meetings where their attendance would be advantageous.

Vice Chair Frank Martin indicated each year the Board of Governors conducts a retreat at which 100% participation by the Board of Trustees would be looked upon favorably. This year the retreat takes place during the November 2 Board of Governors meeting at Florida Atlantic University.

With no further business to discuss, the Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.