

**FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
One Poly Place
439 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, Florida 33801
February 5, 2013 at 8:45 a.m.**

1. Call to Order

Chair Gidel called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. Chair Gidel, Vice Chair Mark Bostick, Trustee Sandra Featherman, Trustee Dick Hallion, Trustee Scott Hammack, Trustee Kevin Hyman, Trustee Frank T. Martin, Trustee Bob Stork, and Trustee Don Wilson were present (Quorum).

Staff & others present: Ava Parker, Ghazi Darkazalli, Nate Johnson, Megan Dodd, Haven Ladd, Lisa Cloitre, Kasia Lundy, Cindy Balogh, Kate Kruger, and Fred Seamon.

2. Review of Draft Plan

The Board open up with a discussion on defining what “polytechnic” means, developing an execution plan, and making course corrections as necessary.

Trustee Stork will chair the Strategic Planning Committee, which will frame a business plan process.

There was discussion on not offering any non-STEM related degree programs. Trustee Featherman believes it is unreasonable not to offer non-STEM programs. Trustee Stork said that there will be duplication of some classes that other universities offer. Trustee Hammack believes it will be best to develop students with STEM degrees so that local industries will want to hire them. Trustee Featherman advised that on average 45% of students graduate from a different institution from where they started.

Chair Gidel believes it is important to develop a plan to increase STEM education in Florida and a dedicated polytechnic will meet that challenge. Chair Gidel advised that the objectives of the curriculum need to be determined.

Chair Gidel gave an overview of the funds that have been received.

3. SACS Requirements

Ava Parker will be having her first meeting with state auditors. She will also be meeting with UF to go over the financials for Florida Poly.

Ava Parker presented an overview of the Foundation. She advised that the Foundation Board will begin with three members and they will be contacting the contributors regarding the transfer of funds from USF Poly Foundation to Florida Poly Foundation.

Ava Parker advised that the Florida Poly website was now up and running. Florida Poly is currently advertising for ten staff positions. Ghazi Darkazalli will be advertising for faculty members. Ava Parker and Ghazi Darkazalli will be attending a SACS pre-appointment meeting tomorrow in Atlanta, GA. Also, March 12, 2013 will be Polk County Days in Tallahassee.

Fred Seamon presented on how to make Florida Poly unique from other universities.

Cindy Balogh presented on research and information regarding SACS. She went over the timeline for the accreditation process.

Cindy Balogh advised there are four phases of the accreditation process: 1) building a foundation of understanding, 2) initial paper review of applicant institution, 3) onsite review by candidacy committee, and 4) onsite review by an accreditation committee. Cindy BaLogh went over the details of each phase of the accreditation process.

Trustee Martin advised that the annual work plan is presented to the BOG, and then the BOG approves the work plan. The work plan will need to be completed in the next 3-4 months.

Trustee Featherman advised that the first charge of the Strategic Planning Committee is to develop a mission/vision plan.

4. Polytechnic Models

The Parthenon Group presented an overview of STEM models (nationally and internationally) and how Florida Poly needs to think differently in order to create a world class university. There are three types of STEM models of methodology: 1) Global Research Institution, 2) Elite Undergraduate Institution, and 3) Industry-Engaged Institution.

Trustee Hammack believes that it is important to be creative with the business plan. Florida Poly is in a unique spot to design programs to ensure graduation rates.

Haven Ladd presented the three big trends in higher education: 1) involving students in research early on, 2) preparing students for industry – at all degree levels, and 3) higher education is recognizing the importance of building relations with businesses.

Trustee Featherman recommended a two-tier approach involving teaching and researching.

Trustee Martin asked if The Parthenon Group could suggest any peer groups that Florida Poly should try to emulate.

5. Proposed Degrees and Programs

Nate Johnson provided an overview of proposed degrees and programs for Florida Poly. He went over program planning, programs that are trending, and programs with strong student demand. He also advised they were currently completing an analysis to determine program areas where job growth is projected and to identify STEM-related programs in the State College System whose graduates will need advanced training.

Ava Parker asked for more information to be provided to the Strategic Planning Committee at the February meeting. The Strategic Planning Committee meeting was set for February 25, 2013.

6. Next Steps

Chair Gidel advised that in the next 30 days Ghazi Darkazalli will help build faculty and a search committee will be formed to hire a president. Chair Gidel also advised that the Board cannot hire a president until the Foundation is set up to pay for multiple years. Trustee Wilson suggested looking for a search firm to find candidates. Chair Gidel asked Ava Parker to contact search firms to assist the Board in hiring a president.

Chair Gidel asked if more PECO money should be requested. Trustee Wilson advised that the Board needed to request more funding.

Trustee Wilson made a motion to approve the Submission of a Proposal to the Legislature Requesting More Funding. Trustee Hallion seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Finance Committee

There was discussion of expanding the Finance Committee to include Finance & Audit Committee. Ava Parker advised that a formal budget report will be needed for next month's Board meeting.

Chair Gidel went over the responsibilities of the Committee.

8. Education Committee

Candidate interviews for the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs were held on January 24th. The decision to hire Ghazi Darkazalli as Vice President of Academic Affairs was unanimous.

Trustee Featherman advised that Dr. Darkazalli would be attending the SACS pre-applicant workshop in Atlanta, GA on February 6, 2013.

There was discussion of changing the name of the Education Committee to Academic Affairs Committee.

Trustee Featherman made a motion to change the name of the Education Committee to Academic Affairs Committee. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. HR Regulations

Ava Parker advised that the Florida Poly website is now up and staff will soon be transferring over to Florida Polytechnic emails.

Ava Parker also advised that staff will be developing human resource regulations. She went over the process of noticing regulations on the website for 30 days prior to adoption.

10. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Gidel recommended providing general guidance to allow Ava Parker to use a public relations firm.

**Trustee Featherman made a motion to approve Ava Parker to use a public relations firm
Trustee Hyman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.**

With no further business to discuss **Trustee Hallion motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Featherman seconded the motion, and motion passed unanimously.** The Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.