



Board of Trustees Annual Retreat Meeting Minutes

BOT approved 02.16.2023

**Wednesday, November 16, 2022
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Cliff Otto called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

II. Roll Call

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

Trustee not present: Trustee Narendra Kini

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

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Recognition of 2022 Ablaze Winners

President Randy Avent introduced the five winners of the 2022 Ablaze Awards. The Ablaze annual employee awards celebration recognizes the extraordinary professional contributions and quality service of our University staff and faculty and their integral role in advancing Florida Poly's mission. Chair Cliff Otto presented recognition on behalf of the Board of Trustees to Kelly Beall, Dara Griffis, Dr. Doga Demirel, Dr. Lisa Kames, and Laura Marrone, commending them for their service to their colleagues and to the students at the University.

V. Government Affairs 101

Lauren Mariano, Legislative Affairs Officer for Florida Poly, and Dave Shepp, one of Florida Poly's lobbyists from The Southern Group, presented on government affairs and the legislative process. They reviewed the incoming State Senate and House leadership and the members of the Polk Delegation. Based on gathered research, University priorities are still being formed for the coming legislative session; these priorities will be sent to trustees prior to the next Board meeting in February 2023. Maggie Mariucci also stated the University is refocused on brand awareness across the state.

Trustee Lyn Stanfield inquired if trustees can be given a list of talking points they can use

when communicating with legislators in their sphere of influence. Mariucci responded her team will provide trustees with such a list so there is a unified message being communicated. Mariano will connect with each trustee to discuss their connections to elected officials, including relationships with members of the Board of Governors.

Trustee Laine Powell asked what else trustees can do to help outside of meeting with legislators. Mariano stated with 41 new freshmen in the House and 14 freshmen in the Senate, educating them about Florida Poly and how their decisions can impact the University is one of the best ways trustees can assist in 2022-2023.

Trustee Gary Wendt recommended the University's new vision statement be included in the talking points.

Mariucci responded to Trustee Beth Kigel's inquiry on messaging strategy by reviewing the three phases of research, writing, and disseminating the final message points to trustees. Research shows many elected officials are either still unaware of Florida Poly or they believe that the University is "expensive," which is a narrative that requires change.

VI. Florida Economic Update and Workforce Trends

David Gillespie, Executive Vice President, Florida Chamber Foundation, gave a presentation titled, "Securing Florida's Future – An Economic Update." He noted the four career areas showing promise of advanced wages and long-term resiliency, two of which are IT/Math and Architecture/Engineering. Gillespie stated Florida Poly directly contributes to the workforce talent pipeline as the state's only public university dedicated 100% to STEM.

Gillespie shared two ways for Florida Poly to become even more involved in building the state's economy: becoming a community development partner and participating in the Chamber's *Florida Technology and Innovation Solution Summit* held annually in August.

Trustee Stanfield asked how the Chamber engages with counties to address the root causes of poverty. Gillespie stated the Chamber is recruiting "zip code leaders" to identify businesses and organizations who will work together to identify and address the ten root causes within their zip code.

VII. Industry Partners Presentation

Lidia Vigil, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, and Dr. Matt Bohm, Director of Industry Engagement and Capstone Projects and Associate Professor, outlined Florida Poly's strategy for engaging corporate partnerships through various facets within the University. These include the Corporate Impact Network, and industry partnerships within academic affairs, such as career, internships, and other partnerships with a focus on Senior Capstone projects.

Donna Slyster, Senior Vice President and Chief Innovation Officer at Saddle Creek Logistics Services, and Mike Conroy, Project Manager at Florida Space Institute, two of the University's industry partners, shared about the success they have experienced working with Florida Poly students.

VIII. Amendment to President's Compensation

At this time, President Avent excused himself from the room. Chair Otto addressed the previous day's decision in the Board of Trustees meeting regarding President Avent's base salary adjustment. While the Board of Trustees approved a 3.5% raise for President Avent,

it may not have been clear that 3.5% is the *minimum* percentage required each year, and the Board can decide to give a higher percentage. As University staff received a 4.5% raise this year, Chair Otto proposed the Board consider awarding President Avent a 4.5% raise also. He noted that the president had waived any increase to his salary for the past two years. After brief discussion, trustees agreed to award President Avent with a 4.5% raise. **A motion was made by Trustee Melia Rodriguez to amend the Board of Trustees' motion approved on November 15, 2022, to award President Avent with a 3.5% increase to his base salary, and to award President Avent with a 4.5% increase to his base salary instead. Trustee Laine Powell seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

IX. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.