



Academic & Student Affairs Committee Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Committee approved 09.21.2023

Wednesday, June 7, 2023
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Florida Polytechnic University WEBEX TELECONFERENCE MEETING

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair David Williams called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Committee Chair Williams introduced and welcomed new faculty trustee Dr. Ajeet Kaushik, Assistant Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Environmental Engineering.

II. Roll Call

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

Committee members not present: N/A

Other Trustees Present: Board Chair Cliff Otto, Trustee Gary Wendt, Trustee Mark Bostick, Trustee Bob Stork

Staff Present: President Randy Avent, Provost Terry Parker, Dr. Allen Bottorff, David Fugett, Kathy Bowman, 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 Minutes

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

V. 2022-24 Academic & Student Affairs Committee Work Plan Review

Committee Chair Williams stated upon staff recommendation, the work plan item on Civil Discourse will move to the September meeting agenda. This allows staff to fully prepare their reports while still meeting the recommendations of the Board of Governors.

VI. Provost's Report

Provost Terry Parker reviewed projected student enrollment growth for fall 2024. He noted a

flattening in growth from fall 2021 to fall 2023 due to lack of available on-campus housing. With the opening of Phase III housing in fall 2024, the number of enrolled students is projected to increase to nearly 2,000. The incoming class size for fall 2023 is approximately 530.

Adding staff leadership to student affairs and launching a housing office to manage leasing of the Phase II Residence Hall has made a tangible difference for students. Additionally, the career services department was enhanced with the hiring of a director-level position and adding additional resources and traditions. Provost Parker also reviewed plans to expand activity fields.

Civil Engineering and Industrial Engineering degrees debut this fall. Provost Parker reminded trustees Construction Engineering and Chemical Engineering were added to the Accountability Plan for future development; the Board approved these new degrees in April.

Twenty new faculty have been hired across multiple departments. Trustee Lyn Stanfield asked what the University will do to ensure the existing culture is sustained with so many faculty onboarding at one time. Provost Parker replied there will be leadership development for current faculty over the summer and faculty bootcamp for all new faculty who start their contracts in fall 2023.

Trustee Gary Wendt inquired if any faculty left Florida Poly and, if yes, why. Provost Parker responded there is attrition for a variety of reasons, such as when a spouse's job relocates. Seldom is it because they were offered more money at another institution. Trustee Narendra Kini asked if there are any preventable causes of faculty leaving that would engender board support. Provost Parker was not sure what trustees could do specifically, however, he stated his ability to make counteroffers when needed. President Avent added while businesspeople are interested in salary and money, faculty are interested in research and tenure. However, Provost Parker stated these two reasons have not played a strong role in faculty leaving, nor in accepting positions with the University.

Committee Chair Williams asked if Florida Poly has seen salary compression issues in Computer Science to which Provost Parker responded in the affirmative, however the University has budget and a collective bargaining agreement constructed in a way that it can be addressed. For instance, last year, assistant professors in computer science received an \$8k increase.

Trustee Bob Stork referenced state legislation regarding post-tenure review and inquired if that has not negated some of the tenure issues. President Avent and Provost Parker both responded no as most institutions have post-tenure review.

Trustee Laine Powell asked if the University primarily recruits junior faculty. Provost Parker responded Florida Poly recruits at all levels but attracts mostly junior faculty.

Finally, Provost Parker reminded trustees that the University will continue to struggle with Performance Based Funding (PBF) metrics 4, 5, 9a, 9b. These metrics relate to student success in a STEM university as compared to student success at comprehensive universities in the SUS. He presented two initiatives to address this challenge: *Get 90!* a goal to achieve a 90% academic progress rate and *Get 50!* a goal to achieve a 50% or better four-year graduation rate.

VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Kristen J. Wharton
Corporate Secretary