



Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Florida Polytechnic University
Applied Research Center (ARC) and Virtual via Webex

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Gary Wendt called the Strategic Planning Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Kristen Wharton called the roll: Committee Chair Gary Wendt, Committee Vice Chair Lyn Stanfield, Trustee Ajeet Kaushik, Trustee Narendra Kini, and Vice Chair Beth Kigel were present (Quorum).

Other Trustees present: Board Chair Cliff Otto, Trustee Mark Bostick, Trustee Bob Stork, Trustee David Williams, and Trustee Melia Rodriguez

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

II. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Approval of the February 8, 2023, Minutes

Trustee Narendra Kini made a motion to approve the Strategic Planning Committee meeting minutes of February 8, 2023. Trustee Beth Kigel seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. 2024-2029 Strategic Plan: Review and Discussion

President Avent stated today's discussion includes a final review of the Plan's proposed goals and metrics. This summer, staff will write and design a publication of the new Strategic Plan which the Board will review for approval at the September Board meeting.

President Avent first reviewed the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan and addressed whether the University met its goals. Then, he reviewed statistics on Florida Poly's institutional peers and how the University compares within the emerging engineering category.

Committee Chair Wendt inquired why Florida Poly's percent admitted is much lower as compared to the University's peers. President Avent and Provost Parker agreed that the

reason is two-fold: the other institutions have better branding, and their reputations are more established. Additionally, President Avent noted Florida Poly may be marketing too broadly as it takes our Institution many more applicants to get the right students.

Next, President Avent presented five-year outcome metrics for the Plan's four goals as aligned to the BOG's Performance Based Funding (PBF) metrics. After confirming the "cost of engineering degree" includes tuition and fees only, President Avent clarified the \$25k cost is to the *State*. The cost to the *student* is actually -\$9,370 aggregated over four years. Trustee David Williams asked if the University tracks the remaining 53% of students who have not graduated in six years. Provost Parker stated the University has not closely tracked this, however, the persistence rate beyond six years is low. President Avent added that several peers have even lower 4-year graduation rates and higher 6-year graduation rates; it is difficult for many students to obtain an engineering degree in four years.

Committee Chair Wendt asked for clarification on the average cost to students. President Avent replied that Florida Poly students receive more in financial aid than needed for tuition and fees. Discussion ensued regarding the challenge of getting students to complete an engineering degree in four years.

President Avent confirmed the 6-year graduation rate on the chart refers to students graduating from Florida Poly.

In the next section of materials, President Avent discussed the following priorities and potential metrics:

Priority 1: Grow the Academic Enterprise

President Avent reviewed the goal of growing the academic enterprise, along with potential metrics for measuring success in the areas of applicants, curriculum, and faculty.

Vice Chair Beth Kigel asked if Florida Poly could also look at AP courses taken in STEM fields such as physics and some of the other sciences when determining applicant readiness. President Avent stated that is a good idea and will explore this for the future. Trustee Williams cautioned that not all schools offer AP courses so it may be best to keep that as a separate metric.

Trustee Bob Stork asked why the University pursues enrolling students from outside of Florida. President Avent replied engineering is a global field and it is important to have other perspectives versus just Florida-centric perspectives. Provost Parker added it is also an indicator of the Institution's reputation outside of Florida.

Priority 2: Transform Students' Lives

President Avent reviewed the goal of transforming students' lives, along with potential metrics for measuring success in the areas of academic success, leadership and professional development (LPD), an engaged campus community, and student well-being.

Trustee Stanfield inquired how student mental health fits into this category. President Avent responded it fits in within the student well-being category and he will add it as a sub-bullet.

Metrics are harder to measure for this goal. Trustee Williams commented that the challenge in academia is that professors focus on academic success and not the other three. A 4.0 is not necessarily an indicator of success; the route to success is a

combination of all of these in order to become a balanced human being. Trustee Stanfield agreed that the student experience should be academically rigorous, but students should also have a great college experience. She stated these types of well-rounded graduates give back and invest in their university.

Trustee Melia Rodriguez stated the Student Government Association (SGA) tracks metrics on the number of students involved in campus activities which may be helpful when gauging the effectiveness of meeting this goal.

Priority 3: Become Engine of Innovation

This goal centers on economic development in the areas of industry, research, entrepreneurship, and land development. Metrics for these goals center on strengthening brand recognition with industry partners, growing the graduate programs, recruiting a faculty body committed to research, building entrepreneurship programs, and land development around campus. Discussion occurred around the value of the University expending time and effort on strengthening secondary schools.

Priority 4: Improve Campus Operations

President Avent reviewed potential metrics for measuring success in goals pertaining to employees, facilities, technology, business processes, and advancement. Due to technological issues and time constraints, the president invited any trustee who would like to discuss this fourth goal in further detail to contact him directly.

VI. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kristen J. Wharton
Corporate Secretary