

**FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BOARD RETREAT: DISCUSSION OF GOVERNOR SCOTT'S LETTER
MEETING MINUTES
Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research Institute
1855 W. Main St., Bartow, FL 33830
June 7, 2017 @ 1:00 PM**

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Frank Martin called the Board Retreat back to order at 1:20 pm.

Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research (FIPR) Institute Executive Director Brian Birky welcomed Trustees to the FIPR Institute property. He gave an overview of the history and purpose of FIPR Institute.

II. Attendance

The following Trustees attended: Chair Frank Martin, Vice-Chair Don Wilson, Trustee Jim Dewey, Trustee Philip Dur, Trustee Sandra Featherman, Trustee Dick Hallion, and Trustee Jacob Livingston.

Staff present: President Dr. Randy Avent, Dr. Terry Parker, Mr. Mark Mroczkowski, Mr. Kevin Aspegren, Ms. Gina DeJulio, Mrs. Maggie Mariucci, Mr. Rick Maxey, Mr. Scott Rhodes, Dr. Kathryn Miller and Mr. Kevin Calkins.

III. Discussion on Governor Rick Scott's Letter

Mr. Rick Maxey provided an overview of the letter that Governor Scott sent to all Florida College and University presidents and boards of trustees. His letter requests that college and university boards discuss a set of six questions. Minutes of this meeting will be prepared in addition to a formal written response to the questions and sent to the Governor.

Questions and Discussion:

Question 1: "How are your institution's degrees matched to the top job opportunities in Florida?"

The Governor provided a recent list of top job areas in the state from the Department of Economic Opportunity as a reference. Mr. Maxey presented a chart that lists each Florida Poly degree that matches with the top ten job fields in Florida. Florida Poly offers one or more degrees in six out of the top ten job fields.

Trustee Don Wilson stated when Florida Poly was first getting started, the University hired two separate firms to analyze future STEM-related job opportunities. This information was used to

design the University's original degrees and curriculum. From the beginning, the University's degree offerings were designed to line up with the top job opportunities in Florida.

Trustee Jim Dewey said it is difficult to project top job opportunities since they are based on the available talent. What future jobs look like depends on what the University does. He also stated that one cannot grow the economy based on current job opportunities available now.

Chair Frank Martin stated that the top ten job fields can change monthly based on historical evidence. He also mentioned that in addition to the two firms that Florida Poly retained, the University held an Industry Summit in the fall of 2013 where industry leaders from across the state participated in a half day of round table and large group discussion which also influenced the University's degree offerings and curriculum. As the University begins work on a new strategic plan, the University will research new job fields in order for the degree offerings to remain relevant.

Trustee Sandra Featherman stated that Florida Poly is especially unique since all of the University's students are being trained in six out of the ten fields identified. No other college or university can make that claim.

Florida Poly's data shows that not all graduates responded to a survey about post-graduation employment. The graduates were contacted multiple times in an effort to collect this information. Mr. Maxey said there is a system in the state that tracks where people are employed; however, it takes almost eighteen months for people to show up in the system. This data is what the Board of Governor uses to determine performance based funding. Most universities are tracking alumni who graduated 18 months ago. Florida Poly's alumni information is very current. Chair Martin inquired how Florida Poly is staying connected to alumni in order to track and collect data. Mr. Kevin Aspegren answered that all students are engaged in the alumni association prior to their graduation.

Trustee Philip Dur stated Florida has pockets of cutting-edge high-wage employees in the aerospace industry (five Florida Poly interns are at Lockheed Martin and Northrup Grumman this summer) yet not one school in Florida has a marine engineering degree or a naval architecture degree. Employers in Florida have to recruit out of state for these high-tech high-wage jobs because Florida's colleges and universities are not meeting the demands for graduates in those disciplines.

Trustee Jacob Livingston inquired if the Governor has considered including entrepreneurs and new business startups. Many Florida Poly students have potential to create new jobs vs. just filling jobs. Mr. Maxey answered that, yes, there is excitement about Florida Poly's focus on entrepreneurship in high-tech areas, citing that the University received funding for this last year. However, these numbers are not factored into these questions. It is a strong desire of Florida Poly that metrics on entrepreneurship be developed and included in the future.

Chair Martin mentioned an article he read this week about the number of patents recently approved. Four universities in the SUS are listed in the top twenty. President Avent stated that one has to be careful because the number of patents is not what is most important. Anyone can patent anything they want. The real metric is how many people are licensing the patents.

Trustee Dewey asked if the University's answers in Table 1 make a strong case for Florida Poly since not all of the data is available. Trustee Dewey also questioned the list in Table 1 as to where there are a lot of openings in these fields and how that correlates to where wages are going up faster and where people are being trained in these fields. Trustee Dewey also pointed out that under "Management Analysts", the University's Science and Technology Management degree should be listed.

Question 2: “What is your institution’s job placement rate for graduates of your two most popular degree programs?”

This was mostly discussed under question one. Chair Martin stated the need to update the data for the total number of graduates to 38 and differentiate undergraduate from graduate students in the data.

Question 3: “How has your institution spent the record state funding in higher education?” Attached was a six-year funding history for each college and university in Florida.

Mr. Maxey reviewed Florida Poly’s written response to this question that shows a high-level view of how the University has spent state funding. Trustee Wilson questioned the answer to number nine “Established more than 90 industry partners.” There are actually several hundred. Mr. Kevin Aspegren will work with Mr. Maxey to provide a correct number of industry partners currently working with Florida Poly. They will also include a definition of “industry partner”.

Trustee Dur commented that how a start-up university spends state funds is fundamentally different from an established university. While it is hard to measure return on investment right now since the University is so new, he recommended whether it be in dollars or hard numbers in graduates trained for disciplines in which they are employed, it is useful to correlate expenditure of funds to a return to a very generous State public. The public has a right to know the return on their investment.

Question 4: “What is the return on investment from the record state funding in higher education?”

In addition to the written response prepared for the Governor, Trustee Dur recommend staff add that Florida Poly will be matriculating students who can serve Florida-based industries, not just grow new industries, but serve existing ones who are in need of technical graduates. Trustee Dewey also added that Florida Poly is graduating students who will make a good living. Trustee Wilson commented that companies will want to come to Florida because the skilled people they need to hire will be located here.

Question 5: Two-part question – “In response to my ‘Finish in Four, Save More’ challenge, what steps has your institution taken to get students graduated within four years? How have you worked with your college or university partner to assure students a seamless transition?”

Trustee Wilson stated that one step has been to virtually not charge tuition.

Trustee Dur shared that the community college system is trying to establish a more robust set of courses that can translate into four-year institutions. These courses must ensure they have adequate rigor so the student can be successful when transitioning to a four-year school. President Avent stated that most Associates degrees are more “technicians” degrees without the academic rigor. However, the state colleges that Florida Poly has collaborated with have been very open to our suggestions on how to establish more robust course offerings. Trustee Featherman agreed that the college system wants to assist the university system and see students be successful. What students need most coming into Florida Poly is calculus, which is one area where the college system could do more to assist with transfer students.

Mr. Scott Rhodes, Vice Provost Enrollment, shared that Miami Dade College has all of Florida Poly’s program sheets and they are articulating every course for both Associate of Science and

Associate of Arts degrees. Florida Poly currently has several students who transferred from Miami Dade and they have been excelling in the University's engineering tracks. Once the Miami Dade agreement is complete, Florida Poly can go to other colleges with this template. Chair Martin said it is good to start with Miami Dade, as they are the largest state college and have a great reputation.

Florida Poly and Polk State College have a joint grant proposal for grant money to assist students who are transferring.

Provost Dr. Terry Parker has been working with Mr. Rhodes and Dr. Kathryn Miller, Vice Provost Academic Support Services, to address the calculus issue from a transfer student perspective. A program called 'Alex' is available to students before they arrive at Florida Poly. The University can also decide to teach college-level pre-calculus for students who are academically talented but do not have any calculus in their prior coursework. Trustee Dewey agreed that teaching pre-calculus would open up a new pool of exceptional talent.

Discussion occurred regarding credit hours. An average semester load at Florida Poly is 14.3 credit hours. Ambitious students take larger class loads. Mr. Kevin Calkins stated that the median is close to that same average - the spread is not large. Trustee Livingston has taken 16 credit hours one semester and 14 credit hours a second semester in order to meet Florida Poly's 30 credit hour requirement per academic year in order to keep his scholarship. With the requirement to take a minimum of 9 credit hours in summer sessions, a Florida Poly student can still graduate in four years. Dr. Parker stated that a traditional student with good talent, who can identify his major early in his college career, could graduate in four years. However, many students have bumps in the road such as changing majors, financial issues or a difficult time with gatekeeper class such as calculus. These all create roadblocks to finishing in four years.

Question 6: "Has your institution implemented any new internship programs?"

Mr. Maxey reviewed a list of over 90 distinct companies who are providing summer 2017 internships for Florida Poly students. Trustees congratulated staff for an outstanding job in developing these opportunities and recognized that achieving accreditation will only serve to boost the University in this area.

Trustee Livingston stated that he has student friends interning at Lockheed Martin and at Northrup Grumman who love what they are doing. Providing internships at key companies like these is a good marketing tool for new students. Participation in an internship is a leading indicator for getting a job.

Chair Martin inquired about cooperative education. Staff replied that co-ops have been discussed but an institution needs a high-tech industry around them to make them work. This is not a high priority.

Chair Martin thanked everyone for their participation in this discussion. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.