



# Academic & Student Affairs Committee Meeting

**BOT approved 09.08.2021**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, April 26, 2021  
3:00 PM – 05:00 PM**

### **Florida Polytechnic University WEBEX TELE-CONFERENCE MEETING**

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Earl Sasser called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

II. Roll Call

Zaira Medina called the roll: Committee Chair Earl Sasser, Trustee Laine Powell, Trustee Ala' J. Alnaser, Trustee Samantha Ashby, Trustee Narendra Kini were present (Quorum)

Other Trustees Present: Chair Cliff Otto, Vice Chair Mark Bostick, Trustee Gary Wendt, Trustee Bob Stork, and Trustee Beth Kigel.

Staff Present: President Randy K. Avent, Provost Terry Parker, Ms. Gina DeJulio, Dr. Tom Dvorske, Dr. Kathryn Miller, Mrs. Kathy Bowman, Dr. Ben Matthew Corpus, Mrs. Kristen Wharton, Ms. Michele Rush, and Ms. Zaira Medina

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Approval of Minutes

**Trustee Laine Powell made a motion to approve the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes of February 10, 2021. Trustee Narendra Kini seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

V. 2020-22 Academic & Student Affairs Committee Work Plan

Provost Terry Parker reviewed the Work Plan while providing the Provost Report below.

VI. Provost Report and Discussion

The Committee discussed the academic calendar for the upcoming two years; these calendars anticipate returning the campus to normal pre-Covid operating conditions. The fall semester will open, barring any unforeseen circumstances, with normal schedules and classrooms that are not socially distanced.

**Trustee Laine Powell made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic calendars. Trustee Narendra Kini second the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Provost Parker discussed the forecast for the incoming student body, provided a short report on efforts in student affairs to promote student engagement, discussed the faculty hiring program, provided results of an enrollment model on student body growth, made note of the concerns over student learning loss due to Covid, and provided an update on the upcoming reaffirmation of accreditation effort.

The admissions season continues to be uncertain, but the positioning of the campus is good. Last fall, the total number of incoming students was 495; this fall it is forecast to be 535 students. Trustee Gary Wendt inquired about the fall 2021 deposits and diversity percentages. Dr. Ben Matthew Corpus responded the percentages are based on the number of deposits received which have been a little over 500. Trustee Earl Sasser inquired if other universities in the SUS are having the same issue. Dr. Corpus responded the University's deposits are up more than all others in the SUS.

Trustee Laine Powell asked several questions relating to Latino and Black student enrollment numbers and the strategies being employed to increase these numbers. Dr. Corpus responded by sharing these numbers are projections, and that applications and deposits for transfer students come later. He also stated that private family tours and meetings have worked better for Admissions staff in recruiting students from under-resourced communities. One strategy his team will employ in the coming year is increasing the number of personalized calls, emails, and visits with families.

Dr. Corpus stated he did not know the exact number of Latinos who applied, but he recognizes the Hispanic population is growing in Florida. Trustee Powell also inquired how many black students applying to engineering schools choose University of Florida and University of Central Florida. Dr. Corpus responded Florida Poly loses students to those two institutions because their volume is much larger.

Trustee Samantha Ashby asked if there will be placement tests for courses other than math; Provost Parker stated there is no plan to add placements tests at the moment.

Over thirty faculty searches are underway. A fraction of these searches will succeed, and many are in the final stages of campus visits and contract offers. In particular, there are five faculty leadership positions open, and he is hopeful three will be successful. Provost Parker stated faculty recruitment has been different during the pandemic but working out.

An Enrollment model was presented showing a forecast of student body growth in the coming years. The model tracks cohorts through their career and uses historical, by cohort evidence to forecast future performance. The expectation is that the University will start the fall of 2025 with over 2250 students.

Summer and fall planning is underway with a focus on supporting students who may struggle due to learning loss from the educational interruption brought about by Covid. These activities include math support and preparation, focus on student engagement, the implementation of a peer mentoring program, and ongoing attention to freshmen-specific courses. Trustee Powell inquired if there has been an increase in the use of virtual mental health services by students. Dr. Kathryn Miller responded students have been working with mental health counselors and the University can increase hours as needed and decrease them when not in session. Consideration will be given to continuing availability of virtual mental health sessions in the fall.

Trustee Wendt inquired if the number of deposits is 510, how many acceptances has Florida Poly issued. Dr. Corpus responded the University has admitted approximately 850 students, and applications are up 26%. President Randy Avent stated it is better for a university to have a low acceptance rate because it makes it more exclusive, thereby generating more interest in people wanting to apply.

Trustee Ashby inquired about the acceptance rate as compared to last year's. Dr. Corpus responded the acceptance rate was 57-58% last year and he projects this year's acceptance rate will be approximately 50% for this coming fall, which is an improvement.

VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.