



# Academic & Student Affairs Committee Meeting

**BOT approved 11.10.2021**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, September 8, 2021  
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

### **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 8:29 am.

II. Roll Call

Zaira Medina called the roll: Committee Chair Earl Sasser, Trustee Laine Powell, Trustee Ala' J. Alnaser, Trustee Samantha Ashby and 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 Avent, Dr. Terry Parker, Mrs. Kris Wharton, Mrs. Kim Abels, Mr. John Causey, Mrs. Kathy Bowman, Dr. Tom Dvorske, Mr. David Calhoun, Mr. David Blanton, Mr. Kevin Calkins, Mrs. Melaine Schmiz, Mr. Mike Dieckmann, Ms. Sherri Pavlik, Mr. Alex Landback, Dr. Ben Matthew Corpus, Ms. Gina DeIulio, Dr. Kathryn Miller, Ms. Penney Farley and Ms. Melissa Vasquez.

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 April 26, 2021. Trustee Samantha Ashby seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

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

Dr. Terry Parker presented the Academic & Student Affairs Committee Work Plan Review 2020-2022. No changes were offered.

VI. Provost Report and Discussion

Dr. Terry Parker presented the Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report and reminded the Committee that it is an annual report that requires the approval of the Board. He stated that there were concerns with previous audit periods and shared the changes that were implemented to improve the concerns. The goal is to meet the requirement

adopted and post the required instructional materials 45 days before the start of the semester for 95% of course sections, which the University has been doing since Fall 2019.

Trustee Narendra Kini inquired about having copies of the online/digital textbooks available online to avoid audit issues. Dr. Parker responded that there are many options to obtain textbooks (digital rent/own, hard cover new/used). He stated that the issues that come into play are Copyright issues.

Trustee Gary Wendt commented that textbooks should not have to be an item of discussion in Board meetings and should be kept at the Board of Governors level. President Avent stated that the BOG considers this issue to be extraordinarily important.

**Trustee Kini made a motion to recommend approval of the 2021 Textbook and Instructional Materials Report to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Ashby seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Dr. Parker updated the Committee on Fall 2021 Admission, where the University welcomed the largest Fall class (642), with strong increases in High School rank for incoming FTIC, and with student diversity increases from the previous year.

Dr. Parker then shared two significant concerns with the Fall 2021 Admissions. The first concern is housing availability. The campus dorms are full and off campus housing is in very short supply. Due to this, an estimated fifty students chose not to come to Florida Poly. The second concern is Financial Aid. The University operates with a cap on aid waivers and the forecasted growth will be at the top of the cap. Careful consideration will need to be taken when determining next year's aid offers and enrollment growth.

Dr. Parker then shared Student Affairs efforts on leadership training and focusing on student engagement, success, and retention. He then discussed Performance Based Funding metrics. The Committee was reminded that the results for next year are done now. Measurement will be on the progress rate for the 2021 cohort. A two-year outlook is recommended for the Summer of 2023. He shared that the 'sustainable' way to grow the campus is to improve retention rates and freshman initiatives.

Trustee Ashby inquired about the grade forgiveness pathway and if it carries over to the next semester. Dr. Parker explained that a student gets 3 grade forgiveness's during their freshman year and then 2 additional lifetime grade forgiveness's.

Trustee Kini inquired if there is any benefit to doing a stressor assessment when students are not doing well. Dr. Parker responded that there is a system in place called CARE. Once CARE receives word of a student not performing, they reach out and work one-on-one with the student. There is not a formal stressor scale or scoring mechanism. Dr. Kathryn Miller thanked Trustee Kini for the suggestion as this gives them something to look at to further increase involvement with first year students.

Trustee Laine Powell inquired about the Peer Learning Support and asked if there was a learning community for students not housed on campus that are matched according to their majors or interests, are mentors provided to students struggling in some of these courses, and based on past performance, do we know what some of the trends are for the students who typically are not doing well in their courses?

In relation to Peer Learning Support, Dr. Parker responded that the University is not in control of how students are roomed in their halls. He is aware and supportive of housing that proactively places students of like interest into halls or building. President Avent added that the University is working with the developer to consider this.

In terms of assigning of mentors, Dr. Parker responded that there are two pathways. One is the orientation leaders are lined up with a set of students, the other is we've assigned students to provide peer learning in 4 classes that capture the Freshman class: Introduction to Stem, Pre-Calculus, Calculus I, and Calculus II.

Dr. Parker stated that the focus of Registration this summer was looking at indicators that determine when a student progresses or not, succeeds or not and where and how we tune their schedules up and provide a pathway for them to be successful. President Avent added there is work on GRIT and how it's measured, however it is difficult to measure some of the GRIT or make good predictions.

Dr. Parker continued with his report and discussed the hiring effort of last spring. He stated that a total of 30 searches took place, including two critical chair positions which provided an opportunity to change up the academic organization. He discussed the faculty demographics, and the Graduate Program.

Trustee Wendt inquired if the differences in the chart provided on tuition and fees comparisons between SUS institutions, have any impact on a person's decision to get a graduate degree and where they would get it? Dr. Parker responded yes, there is an impact as several of our own students compared prices.

Dr. Parker finalized his report on the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and highlights of the MOU and acknowledged Alex Landback's efforts in navigating the negotiations without any significance acrimony.

#### VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.