



# Academic & Student Affairs Committee Meeting

**BOT approved 04.28.2022**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 9, 2022  
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

### **Florida Polytechnic University WEBEX TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

**Dial in: 1-415-655-0001 | Access code: 2423 132 1730#**

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Earl Sasser called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Roll Call

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

Committee member not present: Trustee Laine Powell

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

Staff Present: President Randy Avent, Provost Terry Parker, Kris Wharton, Kim Abels, John Causey, Erica Johnson, Melaine Schmiz, Dr. Ben Matthew Corpus, Dr. Kathryn Miller, Larry Locke, Andrea Cashell, Lydia Guzman, Kathy Bowman, Dr. Tom Dvorske, Gina DeIulio, David Blanton, Mike Dieckmann, Kevin Calkins, Orel Yoshia, Laura Marrone, Andrew Konapelsky, and Maggie Mariucci.

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 November 10, 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

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

VI. Provost Report

Provost Parker presented two new Master of Science Degrees in Data Science and Engineering Management. Data Science is an existing degree in the Computer Science program, and the Engineering Management degree is part of the University Engineering program.

The Department of Data Science & Business Analytics offers a Master of Science in Computer Science with two tracks: Data Science and Computer Science. This proposal separates the tracks into two degrees. The program will offer three pathways to degree: a 10-month, course only option culminating in a project-seminar; a 16-month option that includes an individual or small group project; and a 2-year, thesis-based option.

Engineering Management is one of five tracks within the Master of Science in Engineering program. The program will be delivered as a "less-than-one" year master's degree (10-month) culminating in a project-based seminar. Currently, the department offers a master's degree track in Data Science and Engineering Management. By breaking out Engineering Management to a standalone degree, there is a greater opportunity to adapt the curriculum and address industry needs while firmly defining the University's existing Master of Science in Engineering as a technical-based master's degree.

Trustee Gary Wendt inquired if the University needs to add faculty or facilities for the degrees and if there is any additional financial cost. Provost Parker informed neither of the degrees require additional facilities beyond what the University already has and there will be no additional financial cost. The Department of Data Science & Business Analytics has demonstrated the ability to deliver the courses with current faculty; however, the department is actively hiring and hoping to strengthen these degrees.

Committee Chair Earl Sasser inquired how Admissions is recruiting graduate students to increase enrollment. Provost Parker stated Florida Poly is marketing the graduate programs to all college graduates in the state of Florida as well as internationally. Dr. Tom Dvorske added one of the advantages for Data Science to be a separate degree is the ability to recruit a broader set of students with different preparations. Dr. Ben Matthew Corpus stated the University can target market to college graduates with a certain GPA level in related degrees.

Trustee Bob Stork inquired as to how adding the two degrees affects the University's accreditation process. Provost Parker responded the initial accreditation was very stringent because there was a period of time where no changes to degrees could be made. Currently, the University is going through reaffirmation and to remain accredited, it is appropriate to show changes within our degrees. Additionally, there is not the level of stringency with reaffirmation.

**Trustee Ala' J. Alnaser made a motion to recommend approval of the Master of Science Degree: "Data Science": to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Samantha Ashby seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Trustee Ala' J. Alnaser made a motion to recommend approval of the Master of Science Degree: "Engineering Management" to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Samantha Ashby seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Provost Parker presented the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic year calendars for approval. Board of Governors (BOG) regulations require calendar adoptions by March 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of the academic year. The 2022-23 Academic Year Calendar was previously approved by the Board on April 26, 2021, as tentative dates to reflect the campus returning to pre-COVID operating conditions. No changes were made, and Provost Parker is requesting Board approval to file the final 2022-23 Academic Calendar Year with the BOG. The 2023-24 Academic Year Calendar includes tentative dates for planning purposes. The dates should

remain unchanged, but if any adjustments are required, they will be submitted to the Board in 2023 for final approval before filing to the BOG.

**Trustee Narendra Kini made a motion to recommend approval of the proposed final 2022-2023 Academic Calendar to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Samantha Ashby seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Trustee Narendra Kini made a motion to recommend approval of the proposed interim 2023-2024 Academic Calendar to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Samantha Ashby seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Provost Parker further presented the Admissions outlook for fall 2022, career outcomes for May graduates, the Freshman Initiative which includes improving academic progression requirements and the four-year graduation rate, faculty hiring activity, the upcoming SACSCOC reaffirmation visit, and University growth and admissions.

Regarding the 248 students reviewed by the Academic Review Board, President Randy Avent inquired if the 39 students in suspension went through the Academic Review Board process. Provost Parker informed the bar for suspension was either inattention or extraordinarily poor GPA/progression; therefore, these 39 students did not go through the Academic Review Board process.

Dr. Corpus presented on student choice and recruitment. Regarding housing challenges, Trustee Narendra Kini inquired if modular housing might be a solution. The modular housing he is familiar with has 1- and 2-bedroom types and are equipped with the amenities students need. Provost Parker and President Avent have researched similar options; however, the cost of utility infrastructure is an issue. They are willing to conduct further research upon Trustee Kini's recommendation.

Trustee Wendt inquired about the typical tuition cost for an incoming freshman on an annual basis. Dr. Corpus responded in-state tuition and fees are \$4,940, and if room and board is added, it is an additional \$11,000. Eighty percent of Florida Poly students are Bright Futures scholars which covers most, if not all, of their tuition. Out of state students do not receive Bright Futures Scholarships.

Provost Parker advised during next week's Strategic Workshop there will be further discussion regarding housing. Committee Chair Sasser commented the University is doing well in hiring faculty and Dr. Corpus' presentation shows Admissions is succeeding, however, the downside is the University cannot grow if there is not enough space for our students. He inquired if the consultants have concluded their report on housing needs. Gina DeIulio replied that a well responded to survey of students was conducted as part of the consultant's housing research, and the consultants will provide a report at next week's Strategic Workshop.

Trustee Wendt would like further information regarding Trustee Kini's suggestion of modular housing and asked if there are any options to see a model. DeIulio suggested Trustee Kini provide Kris Wharton the company's information and she will share this information with the Board.

Trustee Ashby inquired about an email sent by University Housing stating there are only 60 rooms remaining for upperclassmen and the rest are being held for incoming freshman. She asked how many students are potentially not going to find a room on campus. Provost Parker responded he forecasts the University will be approximately 50 beds short. He also stated the University will open a housing/office function to help connect students to local housing opportunities.

## VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.