



Academic & Student Affairs Committee Meeting

BOT approved 04.27.2023

**Wednesday, February 8, 2023
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

Florida Polytechnic University WEBEX TELE-CONFERENCE MEETING

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair David Williams called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Zaira Medina called the roll: Committee Chair David Williams, Committee Vice Chair Narendra Kini, Trustee Susan LeFrancois, Trustee Melia Rodriguez, and Trustee Lyn Stanfield were present (Quorum).

Committee Members not present: Trustee Laine Powell

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

Staff Present: President Randy Avent, Provost Terry Parker, David Fugett, David Blanton, Dr. Allan Bottorff, Mike Dieckmann, Dr. Kathryn Miller, Dr. Tom Dvorske, Maggie Mariucci, Melaine Schmiz, Alex Landback, Kristen Wharton, and Zaira Medina

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Trustee Melia Rodriguez motioned to approve the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes of November 15, 2023. Committee Vice Chair Narendra Kini seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. 2022-2024 Academic & Student Affairs Committee Work Plan Review

Committee Chair Dave Williams reviewed the Academic and Student Affairs Committee Work Plan. There was no discussion on this item.

VII. Provost Report

A. Academic Calendar (AY+1 and AY+2)

Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 8.001 University Calendars requires each university adopt an annual calendar to be filed with the BOG by March 1 prior to the start of the

academic year. By practice, the University approves the calendar for the upcoming academic year and also provides a tentative calendar for following academic year.

Committee Vice Chair Narendra Kini motioned to recommend approval of the proposed final 2023-2024 Academic Calendar to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Melia Rodriguez seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Melia Rodriguez motioned to recommend approval of the tentative 2024-2025 Academic Calendar to the Board of Trustees. Committee Vice Chair Narendra Kini seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Two New Degrees: Civil Engineering and Industrial Engineering

Provost Terry Parker reviewed the multi-step process for a formal degree approval. He presented detailed background information on two proposed Bachelor of Science degrees: Civil Engineering and Industrial Engineering. He stated these are two strong programs to add to Florida Poly's current suite of engineering degrees.

Committee Vice Chair Narendra Kini motioned to recommend approval of the proposed degree program, Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Lyn Stanfield seconded the motion.

Discussion occurred at this point.

Trustee Melia Rodriguez inquired how the University plans to support transfers into upper-level courses of these degrees. Provost Parker responded there is no intent to transfer students into upper division courses in the initial year of the degree's offering, nor will any changes in majors be allowed until the program is built.

Trustee Rodriguez asked when the new degrees would be advertised to prospective students. Provost Parker responded not until BOG staff review the proposal, accept it, and add it to the University's inventory. Trustee Rodriguez inquired if this timeline also applies to advertising for faculty. Provost Parker responded that it does not and hiring ads will be posted in the upcoming weeks.

Trustee Rodriguez also asked what will happen to students who enroll in one of these degrees if the University does not have a support structure to start the program in fall 2023. Provost Parker responded there is a support structure already in place due to the commonality of coursework in the foundational two years.

Committee Vice Chair Narendra Kini inquired if a degree created in 2023 should focus primarily on experiential case studies and execution, and minimize content as the fundamental transformation of degree design for the future. Provost Parker responded "yes" to some degree; the key is how to structure a student's education around using information that is infinitely available. President Avent responded this is a good point and a good discussion; however, teaching core fundamentals will last the student a lifetime.

At this time, Committee Chair David Williams called for the vote; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Melia Rodriguez motioned to recommend approval of the proposed degree program, Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, to the Board of Trustees. Committee Vice Chair Narendra Kini seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Graduate Student Tuition Waiver

At the November 2021 Board of Trustees meeting, the board approved a \$150 per credit hour waiver for graduate tuition. This request is to extend this waiver for the coming three years.

Committee Vice Chair Narendra Kini motioned to recommend approval to the Board of Trustees of an automatic tuition waiver of \$150 per credit hour for all graduate students who are starting graduate school at the University in AY 2023-24, AY 2024-25, AY 2025-26. This waiver, defined as the "BOT Graduate Tuition Waiver" is distinct from the University's general tuition waiver and its out-of-state tuition waiver. Trustee Melia Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Discussion occurred at this point.

Trustee Wendt inquired about the net cost for other SUS institutions and if Florida Poly should focus on being competitive in other areas versus this one. Provost Parker responded students make their decisions based on finances; with this waiver, it makes it easy for a student to choose Florida Polytechnic. President Avent added Florida Poly doesn't have the brand recognition the other institutions have, so it would be hard to compete on that alone.

Board Chair Cliff Otto mentioned that all SUS institution Board Chairs submitted a letter to the BOG requesting them to grant universities the ability to increase tuition for out-of-state and international graduate students. Chair Otto asked Provost Parker if this tuition waiver applies to in-state graduate students in particular to which Provost Parker responded affirmatively.

At this time, Committee Chair David Williams called for the vote; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Student Success Plan Status Review and Report Approval

Provost Parker reviewed the final report for the Student Success Plan. The majority of required tasks are complete; the remainder will be completed by March 1.

Trustee Melia Rodriguez motioned to recommend approval to the Board of Trustees of the final report for the Student Success Plan. Trustee Lyn Stanfield seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Wendt inquired on the issues with Pell retention. Provost Parker provided a response based on nationwide data on Pell students. President Avent added this was a Legislative decision to track Pell student retention in particular since the University does not have a six-year graduation rate.

E. Regional Accreditation Discussion

Dr. Tom Dvorske, Vice Provost Academic Affairs, provided background information on the recent changes to institutional accreditation. As a result, SUS institutions may now voluntarily pursue institutional accreditation from an agency other than SACSCOC. Florida Poly was reaffirmed by SACSCOC on December 6, 2022 for a ten-year period, thus triggering the institution, by law, to begin this process with a new accrediting agency within the coming year.

Dvorske reviewed the process for changing accrediting agencies. Administration identified the Higher Learning Commission as the best fit for a new accrediting agency for Florida Poly. The relative time frame for officially changing agencies tends to be approximately 18 – 36 months. Critical to the University throughout this process is that it maintain compliance with all applicable policies and principles of SACSCOC, while also making appropriate adjustments to ensure compliance with HLC standards.

This process should not disrupt the University's ability to award federal financial aid or participate in federal grants.

Trustee Susan LeFrancois inquired if there is a cost associated with this change, and if so, how will that cost be covered, and would this be transferred to the students. Dvorske responded that students will not be burdened by any cost associated with this change. While it is hard to give an actual dollar amount, the biggest cost will be staff time and resources, and institutional changes at process and policy levels.

VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Committee Vice Chair Kini inquired if Industry could provide real-life problems as research opportunities for graduate students. Provost Parker responded in the affirmative, however, there are challenges such as intellectual property issues and gaps between Industry and Academia. Most of Florida Poly's masters programs are in a traditional thesis format, but with the new master's degree that is more project based, working with Industry can be relevant.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.