



Academic & Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2024
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Minutes Approved 04/25/24

Florida Polytechnic University
VIRTUAL VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Kristen Wharton called the roll: Committee Chair David Williams, Committee Vice Chair Sidney Theis, Trustee Melia Rodriguez, Trustee Ajeet Kaushik, and Trustee Dorian Abbot, and Trustee Lyn Stanfield were present (Quorum)

Committee members not present: N/A

Other Trustees Present: Board Chair Cliff Otto

Staff Present: President Randy Avent, Provost Terry Parker, Dr. Allen Bottorff, David Fugett, Kathy Bowman, David Blanton, Mike Dieckmann, Kristen Wharton, Melaine Schmiz, Maggie Mariucci, Dr. Kathryn Miller, Dr. Marc Manganaro, Dee Voss, and Kevin Calkins

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Approval of the November 6, 2023, Minutes

Trustee Melia Rodriguez motioned to approve the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes of November 6, 2023. Trustee Sidney Theis seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Academic and Student Affairs Work Plan 2022-2024

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

VI. Provost's Report

Provost Parker began his report by reminding Committee members that at their last meeting, they approved a pre-proposal for an M.S. in Electrical Engineering degree. Performance Based Funding (PBF) is the motivator for making this change in Florida Poly's degree listing. Today, Provost Parker presented the formal proposal to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Melia Rodriguez to recommend to the Board of Trustees approval of development of a Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering degree program, CIP code (14.1001), and to give the Board of Trustees Chair authority to approve all non-substantive changes to the proposal that are made to conform to Board of Governors format requirements. Trustee Lyn Stanfield seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding regional accreditation, Provost Parker stated he continues to await a response from the U.S. Department of Education to Florida Poly's formal request to change accrediting agencies. Four programs are up for ABET reaccreditation in 2024. Additionally, Florida Poly seeks initial ABET accreditation for its Environmental Engineering and Data Science degrees. Final submissions are due June 30, with an anticipated site visit in late 2024.

An increased volume in applications and admits for fall 2024 is already evident due to the anticipated August opening of Residence Hall III. Focus is being placed on recruiting fall entry, first time in college (FTIC) students, and admission decisions are being delivered earlier than in prior years. Dee Voss answered Trustee Dorian Abbot's question regarding "average GPA" by sharing that what is shown in the academic profile chart is a weighted GPA, based on students taking advanced placement courses, Cambridge curriculum, and the like. The average varies across the country.

Dr. Kathryn Miller, Vice Provost of Student Affairs, focused her presentation on housing and recreation. She presented historical and current information on housing, which has now operated at or over 100% capacity since August 2021. She also reviewed the cost of attendance, which has increased due to inflation, however, staff are watching this very closely. Miller presented additional facility needs, driven by the students' use of the Student Development Center (SDC) which doubled from AY22 to AY23. Needs include an indoor basketball court, additional field space, and dedicated space for other extracurricular activities. Trustee Abbot asked why a basketball court is a critical need, to which Miller and Trustee Melia Rodriguez replied stating it provides an indoor space for activities in case of rain or elevated outdoor temperatures. Miller showed a visual rendering of the additional facilities.

Provost Parker reported on the University's progress with Performance Based Funding (PBF) metrics. He currently projects a total of 78 points for FY24, which is favorable, however, four metrics remain a challenge to the University. Going forward, staff will focus on improving three of those metrics: Academic Progression Rate (APR), 3-year AA Transfer Graduation Rate, and FTIC Pell APR.

Provost Parker explained the summer start program for FTIC students. These students must show success during their summer courses in order to continue with full-time status in the fall. Initial results show that summer students dramatically out-perform their fall cohort peers. Trustee Abbot asked why the University does not admit any student who wants to take summer classes. Provost Parker responded he is unsure if there would be both a mass of students and success of students. President Avent also replied that the University does not have the resources to admit a large number of students during the summer. He stated the students who are targeted for this program are ones who have shown strong promise in their math classes but may not have done well in ACT/SAT testing. Trustee Abbot suggested an alternative, which allows for a greater number of students to take a remote class during the summer, and if they score well, the University could admit them in the fall. Parker and Avent both stated it is an interesting concept that would require running a pilot program, however, online classes aren't ideal.

Provost Parker concluded his report by stating the ongoing challenge with the inverted demographic of the faculty and marketplace demand. Currently, the University expects to hire a total of 23 new faculty across disciplines.

VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Kristen J. Wharton
Corporate Secretary