



# Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Minutes Approved 09/06/24

**Monday, July 29, 2024  
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

## **Florida Polytechnic University Virtual via Microsoft Teams**

### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Cliff Otto called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Chair Otto welcomed Florida Poly's president, Dr. Devin Stephenson, to his first Board of Trustees meeting. Dr. Stephenson provided remarks on his first few weeks at the University and stated the future is bright for Florida Poly. Interim Provost, Dr. Brad Thiessen, and Vice President of Enrollment Management, Student Affairs and Strategic Communications, Bryan Brooks also introduced themselves to the Board.

### **II. Roll Call**

Kristen Wharton called the roll: Chair Cliff Otto, Vice Chair Beth Kigel, Trustee Dorian Abbot, Trustee Christos Tsetsekas, Trustee Lyn Stanfield, Trustee Brad Towle, Trustee Jesse Panuccio, Trust Patrick Hagen, Trustee Sidney Theis, and Trustee Ilya Shapiro were present (Quorum).

Trustees not present: N/A

Staff present: President Devin Stephenson, Interim Provost Brad Thiessen, Bryan Brooks, Kelli Stargel, Kathy Bowman, David Blanton, David Fugett, Dr. Allen Botorff, Penney Farley, Maggie Mariucci, Lauren Mariano and Kristen Wharton were present.

### **III. Public Comment**

There were no requests received for public comment.

### **IV. 2025-2026 Legislative Budget Request (LBR)**

President Stephenson introduced the Legislative Budget Request (LBR) to the Board, commending the staff who participated in its development. The title of the document is "Rising to 3,000: Expanding Florida Poly's Impact," and the request is for \$21.574M in recurring funds.

Kelli Stargel, AVP Strategic Relationships, Dr. Thiessen and Bryan Brooks provided further details on the LBR.

**A motion was made by Trustee Brad Towle to approve the 2025-2026 Legislative Budget Request for \$21,574,000 in recurring funds to enhance student support services, increase enrollment, and offer innovative academic programs in applied sciences, aligning with the University's strategic priorities and accountability plan. Trustee Beth Kigel seconded the motion.**

Chair Otto opened the floor for discussion, and trustees asked questions regarding the details of the Legislative Budget Request (LBR). Additional questions were asked regarding the Student Activities Center (SAC), student retention, ratio of junior faculty to senior faculty, comparison of this LBR to previous years, research and graduate programs, and additional staffing needs.

**Chair Otto then called for the vote; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

V. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
Kristen J. Wharton  
Corporate Secretary