



# Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

November 07, 2024  
9:00 – 10:15 A

Florida Polytechnic University  
Virtual via Microsoft Teams

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Sidney Theis called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Kristen Wharton called the roll: Committee Chair Sidney Theis, Trustee Christos Tsetsekas, Trustee Brad Towle, Trustee Ilya Shapiro, and Trustee Dorian Abbot were present (Quorum)

Committee members not present: Trustee Lyn Stanfield

Other Trustees Present: Board Chair Beth Kigel, Trustee Cliff Otto

Staff Present: President Devin Stephenson, Interim Provost Brad Thiessen, Dr. Allen Bottorff, David Fugett, Kathy Bowman, David Blanton, Mike Dieckmann, Kevin Calkins, Kristen Wharton, and Melaine Schmiz

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Approval of September 6, 2024, Minutes

**Trustee Brad Towle motioned to approve the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes of September 6, 2024. Trustee Christos Tsetsekas seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

V. 2024-2026 Academic and Student Affairs Committee Work Plan

Committee Chair Theis stated that the Committee's Work Plan for 2024-2026 has been updated to ensure it accurately reflects the work done in quarterly committee meetings. He opened the floor for comments, however there were no questions or comments.

**Trustee Brad Towle motioned to recommend approval of amendments to the 2024-2026 Academic and Student Affairs Committee Work Plan to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Ilya Shapiro seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

## VI. Academic Affairs Report

### A. Student Success (Performance Based Funding (PBF) Metrics)

Vice President and Interim Provost, Dr. Brad Thiessen, stated that in 2024, the University's score was 74 which earned full funding, however the score in 2023 was 86. Provost Thiessen noted if the score drops two years in a row, the University is required to submit a success improvement plan. Florida Poly projects a score of 77 for 2025; however, there are four metrics that need to be addressed and all of them pertain to student retention, student persistence, and 4-year graduation rate. Thiessen provided in-depth data pertaining to these challenging areas.

Trustee Dorian Abbot encouraged using a predictive model when looking at admissions profiles. He also asked if it is possible to construct a co-variance matrix for the PBF scores which would help the University maximize its score.

Thiessen also reviewed other areas of focus, including the tutoring center, math placement, first-year curriculum, faculty development, and curricular bottlenecks.

### B. Faculty Recruitment and Retention

Thiessen shared there are recruitment ads for open rank faculty in 15 different fields. Over 560 applications have been received; several will be hired for January 2025 and up to 20 hired for next fall. He also reviewed areas of faculty concern where improvements are being made in order to boost faculty retention.

### C. Curriculum and Compliance

Thiessen reported he is actively working on a prospectus to SACSCOC to gain approval for an online Engineering Management program. The goal is to have this program online for fall 2025. Additionally, the ABET onsite visit is now scheduled for January 26-28, 2025.

Trustee Towle inquired if the Data Science program was being reviewed for accreditation. Thiessen replied that the program was pulled from consideration to evaluate the benefit of and ability to maintain accreditation.

## VII. Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications Report

Bryan Brooks, Vice President, introduced Dr. Jon Pawlecki, new AVP for Student Affairs, and Dr. Andy Oguntola, new AVP for Enrollment Management. Brooks reviewed several student events that occurred throughout the fall, including the remarkable results of the fall 2024 Career Fair.

## VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kristen J. Wharton  
Corporate Secretary