

**FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
MEETING MINUTES  
ONE POLY PLACE  
439 S. Florida Avenue, Suite 300  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
March 19, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.**

1. Call to Order

Sandra Featherman called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Roll call was completed by Gina DeIulio. Members on the call were Chair Sandra Featherman, Trustee Dick Hallion, and Trustee Don Wilson (quorum). Others on the call: Chair Rob Gidel, Dr. Ghazi Darkazalli, and Gina DeIulio.

2. Peer Institutions

Ava Parker and Dr. Darkazalli met with MGT in Tallahassee and narrowed down the peer list to six institutions. The six proposed institutions are: (1) University of Illinois; (2) Worcester Polytechnic Institute; (3) Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; (4) Arizona State University; (5) Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; and (6) California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo.

Chair Featherman asked if anyone had any questions. She advised she is happy with all of them with the exception of the University of Illinois because it is a flagship campus and it has different direction and requirements than the other on the list; and it is also different than Florida Polytechnic. Trustee Hallion agreed with Dr. Featherman, but is very pleased with the other five.

Dr. Darkazalli advised his preference would have been Perdue, but the reason University of Illinois was chosen is because it is a public school and he wanted to have some public schools on the list. Dr. Darkazalli went on to say that Perdue is a good school and they have a technology program. Chair Featherman asked Dr. Darkazalli to decide between the two and Dr. Darkazalli advised he is leaning toward Perdue.

Chair Gidel asked Dr. Darkazalli if he had a point of view on these institutions suggested by Parthenon as they were all in the 5,000-7,000 student category. Dr. Darkazalli responded that he really likes Stevens Institute of Technology. It is a very good institute and ranks #75 in the United States. Chair Gidel is also concerned with California Poly being on the list as it is such a big school, but even though they are big their STEM focus is what we aspire to be. Dr. Darkazalli advised the reason he listed California Poly is because their motto is "Learn by doing." The undergraduate student in the STEM program is involved in research and they have to be involved in a project from the beginning; they do all their work by including that project from year one to year four. Dr. Darkazalli likes this program, because we want our students to be able to step into a workplace and be job ready.

Dr. Darkazalli made a suggestion to replace University of Illinois with Stevens Institute of Technology. Trustee Wilson made the motion to make the change. Trustee Hallion seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Dr. Darkazalli asked for a motion to present the six proposed peer institutions to the Board. Trustee Wilson made a motion and Trustee Hallion seconded the motion. All were in favor of presenting the proposed peer list to the Board.

3. Regulations

Gina DeJulio went over the FPU-2.006 Application Fee and Admission Deposit regulation analysis. Chair Featherman asked for a motion to recommend to the Board at the May meeting that this regulation be adopted. Trustee Wilson made a motion and Trustee Hallion made a second. All were in favor of the regulation being presented to the Full Board on May 7, 2013 for adoption.

4. SACS Timeline

Dr. Darkazalli presented a timeline for informational purposes. There is a Strategic Planning Committee meeting on Friday to discuss what courses, hiring, and assessments are needed to get accreditation.

Chair Featherman thought we needed three years of audited financial statements in order to become accredited. Dr. Darkazalli advised that they asked SACS while they were there with them and they said they would take the proposed budget for the year, and then when they come to visit Florida Polytechnic they will go over it.

Chair Featherman asked who will make the recommendation on SACS. Will it be the Academic Affairs Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, or do we approve it along the way? Chair Gidel advised that we monitor it along the way. Dr. Darkazalli agreed and advised that we would need to proceed with the Fast Track. Chair Gidel agreed.

5. Proposed Academic Programs

Dr. Darkazalli presented a list of degrees that he would like the Committee to review and decide on the degrees. Then once the degrees are chosen, the concentration under those degrees will be chosen as well.

The committee discussed adding a 6<sup>th</sup> major in "Business Management." Chair Featherman liked that idea and asked for the Committee's thoughts. Trustee Hallion advised he always likes to stress leadership, but he likes it. Chair Featherman suggested for it to say "Business Management & Leadership." Dr. Darkazalli agreed. Trustee Wilson also agreed and advised that he believes our goal should be to develop STEM people who could be good managers and business leaders. He is in support of it. Chair Gidel advised he is fine with this and we will be defining the coursework because it is a broad category. Chair Featherman asked for a motion to approve the six majors. Trustee Hallion made a motion to approve the six majors as outlined. Trustee Wilson made a second. All were in favor of approving the six majors.

6. Proposed Faculty Contract Models

Chair Featherman advised that she would like to see what other schools are doing for contracts. There are several issues around contracts: Whether or not we are going to offer tenure? Is it allowable in the state as all the other schools in the state seem to have it? How to offer the contracts in terms of how you move up? If we are not offering tenure, then what is the up or out process?

Another question was: Whether we should offer 9 month or 12 month contracts? Chair Featherman has asked Ava Parker and Dr. Darkazalli to get information on what other polytechs are doing.

Gina DeJulio advised that you are allowed to have a non-tenure model in the state of Florida. Florida Gulf Coast University has such a model and they are phasing out any grandfathered in people. Chair Featherman asked the Committee if they wanted to hold this non-tenure discussion for the faculty contract model discussion or if they wanted to move forward on that one piece. Trustee Wilson advised that his reading of the Board was to avoid tenure if it is possible to hire the people we need to hire in a relatively short time. He believes that is the direction everyone is expecting Florida Polytechnic to move in. Chair Featherman asked if the Committee wanted to move forward at this time or bring it to the Board as part of a package. She said she would prefer to bring it as part of a package. Trustee Hallion and Trustee Wilson both agreed.

Trustee Wilson offered to work with Gina DeJulio to see what other schools were doing and look at an outline for a possible contract.

7. Next Steps & Closing Remarks

With no further business to discuss, there was a motion to adjourn from Trustee Wilson and a second by Trustee Hallion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.