



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2025
9:00 A – 12:00 P

Florida Polytechnic University
Barnett Applied Research Center (BARC)
and Virtual via Microsoft Teams

I. Call to Order

Chair Beth Kigel called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Kristen Wharton called the roll: Chair Beth Kigel, Vice Chair Jesse Panuccio, Trustee Ilya Shapiro, Trustee Patrick Hagen, Trustee Dorian Abbott, Trustee Lyn Stanfield, Trustee Sam Neelam, Trustee Cliff Otto, Trustee Eliot Peace, Trustee Sidney Theis, Trustee Colby Manrodt, and Trustee Edwar Romero-Ramirez were present (Quorum).

Board Trustees not present: n/a

Staff Present: President Devin Stephenson, Provost Brad Thiessen, Dr. Allen Bottorff, David Fugett, Bryan Brooks, Cole Allen, David Blanton, Dr. Tom Dvorske, Allison Pirpich, Melaine Schmiz, and Kristen Wharton

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Trustee Recognitions

Chair Beth Kigel recognized three trustees whose terms end in either June or July 2025. For each of these trustees, Kristen Wharton read a resolution which is attached to these minutes. Each trustee provided remarks of gratitude and encouragement for the future of Florida Poly.

Vice Chair Jesse Panuccio made a motion to approve Board Resolution 2025-003 in recognition of and in profound appreciation for the distinguished service of Trustee Dorian Abbot. Trustee Ilya Shapiro seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Patrick Hagen made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-004 in recognition of and in profound appreciation for the distinguished service of Trustee Lyn Stanfield. Vice Chair

Jesse Panuccio seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Lyn Stanfield made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-005 in recognition of and in profound appreciation for the distinguished service of Trustee Clifford K. Otto. Vice Chair Jesse Panuccio seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. 2024-2026 Board of Trustees Work Plan

Chair Kigel reviewed the Board of Trustees Annual Work Plan. There was no discussion on this agenda item.

VI. Chair's Remarks

Chair Beth Kigel commented on several extraordinary moments from the University's commencement ceremony held May 4. She cited remarks made by the student speaker, Raul Lopez, and SUS Chancellor Ray Rodriguez and encouraged trustees to attend commencement in the future.

VII. President's Remarks

President Devin Stephenson introduced Cole Allen as the interim Vice President and CIO, followed by a review of spring semester accomplishments including: Family Day, IMSA 12 hours of Sebring, IEEE-HKN induction ceremony, Scholarship Dinner, Campus Store, Florida Poly Day at the Capitol, meeting with Senator Rick Scott in Washington D.C., grand opening of International Flavors and Fragrances (IFF), Admit Day and Game Expo, Order of the Engineer induction ceremony, Capstone showcase, Presidential Ambassador induction ceremony, Ascend employee appreciation luncheon, OCOM strategic affiliation, Royal European Academy of Doctors induction, and BSP, Applus+ IDIADA partnerships in Spain. Dr. Stephenson also addressed the coming enrollment cliff and why Florida may avoid this issue as it has seen a 12% increase in the number of high school students graduating.

VIII. Faculty Senate President's Report

Trustee Edwar Romero began his remarks by introducing himself as a mechanical engineering professor at Florida Poly, where he has served for the past seven years. He expressed appreciation for the exemplary leadership of Drs. Ajeet Kaushik and Brad Towle, as well as President Stephenson, acknowledging their commitment to setting a strong standard for faculty excellence. Trustee Romero also highlighted the productive collaboration between faculty chairs and Provost Brad Thiessen, noting progress in addressing faculty needs, expanding research opportunities, and ensuring the acquisition and upkeep of essential research equipment. He also emphasized ongoing efforts to elevate and showcase faculty research across the university.

Looking ahead, Trustee Romero outlined his goals for the coming year, focusing on continued advancement in the areas of teaching, research, and service.

IX. SGA President's Report

Trustee Colby Manrodt, SGA president and NASA intern, introduced himself and shared SGA's goals for the year. These include stronger ties with SUS student leaders, hosting a Florida Student Association (FSA) meeting on campus, and building school traditions.

Key initiatives:

- Designing club/team banners for the Student Achievement Center (StAC)
- Launching a social media plan to increase student engagement
- Partnering with local colleges for large-scale events
- Expanding local community service hour opportunities for students
- Adding golf cart transportation on campus
- Creating a "food forest"
- Forming a student wellness committee
- Collaborating with the University's growing sports teams
- Improving outdoor spaces (e.g., solar fans)
- Offering virtual office hours and launching a new website

Manrodt asked for Board support in legitimizing and elevating traditions, identifying uses for CITF funds, and securing sponsorships. He stressed the importance of mentorship and visibility to grow student programs.

X. Career Services Presentation

Vice President Bryan Brooks introduced Allison Pirpich, Director of Career Services, who presented on student engagement and employer partnerships. She highlighted recent achievements, including the 2025 NASPA Excellence Award, addressed ongoing challenges, and outlined strategies to enhance career outcomes for Florida Poly students. Trustee Abbot recommended integrating technical interview pedagogy into the classroom experience. Trustee Stanfield asked how the University is leveraging its alumni network. Pirpich responded that a coordinated employer engagement plan is critical to leveraging the alumni network. Trustee Ilya Shapiro inquired whether additional staff would be necessary to support the integration of technical skills into the curriculum. Pirpich affirmed that additional staffing would enhance the University's ability to provide individualized coaching and support. She also noted the importance of establishing an executive career coaching team, an employer engagement team, and strengthening alumni connections with employers. VP Brooks concluded by asking Pirpich about future career opportunities for students. She emphasized the need to focus on both technical and soft skills, align the curriculum with employer needs, and incorporate certifications in high-demand areas.

XI. Consent Agenda

Chair Kigel brought forward the consent agenda for trustee approval.

A. Governance, Audit, and Compliance Committee

- 1. Approve FPU-2.001 Admission to the University and Appeal Process – General**
- 2. Approve FPU-4.003 Special Fees, Fines and Charges**
- 3. Approve Bylaw Revisions**
- 4. Approve President's Administrative Action Plan FY26**

B. Finance and Facilities Committee

- 1. Approve Foundation Board of Directors' Reappointments**

C. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

- 1. New Academic Degree Programs**
- 2. General Education Courses for 2026-2027**

D. Board of Trustees Meetings

- 1. Approve Board of Trustees meeting minutes from April 24, 2025**
- 2. Approve Board of Trustees meeting minutes from February 18, 2025**
- 3. Approve Board of Trustees meeting minutes from February 12, 2025**

As each of the consent agenda items comes before the Board with unanimous approval from the respective Committees, there is no need for a second. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

XII. Committee Reports

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Sid Theis reported that Bryan Brooks, Vice President for Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications, provided an update highlighting Spring 2025 student events, projected Fall 2025 enrollment figures, and reviewed recent developments within the Department of Strategic Communications, including a review of social media analytics from Florida Poly's social channels.

Vice President and Provost Dr. Brad Thiessen provided an Academic Affairs report that provided the Board the opportunity to review new academic degree programs for consideration in 2025-26 and to discuss strategies for improving first-year student success.

B. Finance and Facilities Committee

Committee Chair Lyn Stanfield stated that the Committee received the University's and the Foundation's third quarter financial update for the period ending March 31, 2025. They also received updates on the five major campus construction projects currently underway, and Advancement and Foundation activities. In addition, the Committee recommended Board approval for the reappointment of six Foundation board directors, which were approved on today's consent agenda.

The Committee also reviewed, approved, and recommended Board approval for one naming opportunity which requires full Board approval today.

A motion was made by Trustee Cliff Otto to approve the following facility naming opportunity: Barnett Applied Research Center, Room 1141 as the Boring Business Systems Conference Room. Vice Chair Jesse Panuccio seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Governance, Audit, and Compliance Committee

Committee Chair Cliff Otto listed the numerous updates shared by David Blanton, CAE and

CCO, including the University Financial Audit FYE24, the Foundation 990, contractual service payments, textbook affordability monitoring report for spring 2025, and the Foreign Influence Audit. Additionally, Cole Allen, interim vice president and CIO, reported on cybersecurity and GLBA compliance.

Melaine Schmitz proposed two amendment regulations and a minor change to the Bylaws, all three of which were approved on today's consent agenda. The Committee also discussed topics for FY26 Board training and President Stephenson presented his Administrative Action Plan FY26 which was also approved on today's consent agenda.

XIII. Legislative Session Report

Dr. Devin Stephenson announced that the legislative session has been extended through Friday, June 6, to finalize the state budget for FY26. A final vote in the Senate is expected on June 16. Currently, no definitive information is available. A virtual Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 30, to review and approve the University's FY26 annual operating budget, the Legislative Budget Request (LBR), and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

XIV. 2025-2030 Strategic Plan Progress Report

Dr. Tom Dvorske, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, presented an overview of the development of the Strategic Plan 25|30 to provide context for the new trustees. He outlined the planning methodology and introduced the tracking tool used to monitor the Plan's progress. Dr. Dvorske reported on several key areas: initiatives that have been started, including development of strategic industry and academic partnerships; initiatives currently on track, such as faculty growth and retention, which remains on schedule with 32 positions filled; and completed initiatives, notably the successful implementation of the campus store.

XV. Partnership Presentation: Catapult Lakeland

Christin Strawbridge, President of Catapult Lakeland, along with Florida Polytechnic University student, Carson Eleman and Brett Chamberlain from Catapult delivered a presentation on the organization's partnership with Florida Poly. The presentation highlighted current student internships and projects utilizing Catapult's facilities. Trustees also learned about a pilot program involving Florida Poly, Catapult, and Lakeland Regional Health.

XVI. Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar

Chair Kigel reminded trustees of the virtual Board meeting on Monday, June 30. She also proposed moving the September 24 Board meeting to September 26; this change requires Board approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Patrick Hagen to approve moving the Wednesday, September 24, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting to Friday, September 26, 2025. Trustee Sumanth Neelam seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

XVII. Board of Governors Meeting Calendar

Chair Kigel shared that the next Board of Governors meeting will be held on June 18 at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in Boca Raton.

XVIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kristen Wharton

Corporate Secretary



FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

Resolution

2025-003

In Recognition and Profound Appreciation of Distinguished Service:

Trustee Dorian Abbot

The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees hereby adopts the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Trustee Dorian Abbot has served on The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees from October 24, 2023, through June 30, 2025, and

WHEREAS, Trustee Abbot served as the Vice Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and served on the Governance, Audit, and Compliance Committee, and

WHEREAS, Trustee Abbot demonstrated his commitment to the mission and vision of Florida Polytechnic University, and;

WHEREAS, Trustee Abbot freely shared his insights with candor and diplomacy, and;

WHEREAS, Trustee Abbot served with integrity and was held in high esteem by his fellow trustees, and;

WHEREAS, Trustee Abbot was always willing to advocate for Florida Polytechnic University seeking to enhance the stature of the University.

Now, therefore be it resolved that The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees, at its regular board meeting on this 3rd day of June, in the year 2025, does hereby recognize and commend Trustee Abbot for his contributions to Florida Polytechnic University, and

Be further resolved that this resolution is included in the minutes of the meeting and a copy presented to Trustee Abbot as a token of the Board's appreciation and sincere thanks.

Resolution adopted by the Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees on June 3, 2025.


BETH KIGEL, Chair



FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

Resolution

2025-004

In Recognition and Profound Appreciation of Distinguished Service:

Trustee Lyn Stanfield

The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees hereby adopts the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Trustee Lyn Stanfield has served on The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees from September 5, 2020, through July 15, 2025, and

WHEREAS, Trustee Stanfield served as the Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee, Vice Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, and served on the Audit and Compliance Committee and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, and

WHEREAS, Trustee Stanfield demonstrated her commitment to the mission and vision of Florida Polytechnic University, and

WHEREAS, Trustee Stanfield freely shared her insights with candor and diplomacy, and;

WHEREAS, Trustee Stanfield served with integrity and was held in high esteem by her fellow trustees, and;

WHEREAS, Trustee Stanfield was always willing to advocate for Florida Polytechnic University seeking to enhance the stature of the University.

Now, therefore be it resolved that The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees, at its regular board meeting on this 3rd day of June, in the year 2025, does hereby recognize and commend Trustee Stanfield for her contributions to Florida Polytechnic University, and

Be further resolved that this resolution is included in the minutes of the meeting and a copy presented to Trustee Stanfield as a token of the Board's appreciation and sincere thanks.

Resolution adopted by the Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees on June 3, 2025.


BETH KIGEL, Chair



FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

Resolution

2025-005

In Recognition and Profound Appreciation of Distinguished Service:

Trustee Clifford K. Otto

The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees hereby adopts the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Trustee Cliff Otto has served on The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees from March 24, 2016, through June 30, 2025, and

WHEREAS, Trustee Otto served as the Vice Chair of the Board from 2018-2020 and Chair of the Board from 2020-2024, and

WHEREAS, Trustee Otto served as Chair of the Audit & Compliance Committee, Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee, Chair of the Governance, Audit, and Compliance Committee, and Vice Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, and

WHEREAS, Trustee Otto demonstrated his commitment to the mission and vision of Florida Polytechnic University, and;

WHEREAS, Trustee Otto freely shared his insights with candor and diplomacy, and;

WHEREAS, Trustee Otto served with integrity and was held in high esteem by his fellow trustees, and;

WHEREAS, Trustee Otto was always willing to advocate for Florida Polytechnic University seeking to enhance the stature of the University.

Now, therefore be it resolved that The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees, at its regular board meeting on this 3rd day of June, in the year 2025, does hereby recognize and commend Trustee Otto for his contributions to Florida Polytechnic University, and

Be further resolved that this resolution is included in the minutes of the meeting and a copy presented to Trustee Otto as a token of the Board's appreciation and sincere thanks.

Resolution adopted by the Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees on June 3, 2025.


BETH KIGEL, Chair