BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee Meeting Agenda

November 10, 2026
9:45 AM – 10:30 AM

Florida Polytechnic University
VIRTUAL VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Dial in: 1-863-225-2351 | Conference ID: 166 822 872#

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patrick Hagen, Chair	Dr. Christie Bassett, Vice Chair	Sumanth Neelam
Dr. Derek Henderson	Colby Manrodt	Dr. Sidney Theis

MEETING AGENDA

I.	Call to Order	Christie Bassett Committee Vice Chair
II.	Roll Call	Kristen Wharton, Corporate Secretary
III.	Public Comment	Christie Bassett
IV.	Approval of the September 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes *Action Required*	Christie Bassett
V.	2026-2027 Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee Work Plan Review	Christie Bassett
VI.	Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications Report	Bryan Brooks Vice President
	A. Enrollment Report	Dr. Andy Oguntola
	B. Student Success Report	Dr. Jon Pawlecki
VII.	Closing Remarks and Adjournment	Christie Bassett

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee DRAFT Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2026
1:00 P – 2:00 P

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Patrick Hagen called the Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Kristen Wharton called the roll: Committee Chair Patrick Hagen, Vice Chair Christie Bassett, Trustee Sumanth Neelam, Trustee Sid Theis, Trustee Colby Manrodt, and Trustee Derek Henderson were present (Quorum)

Committee members not present: N/A

Other Trustees Present: Board Chair Beth Kigel, Trustee Rob Kincart, Trustee Jeff Beelaert, Trustee Ilya Shapiro

Staff Present: President Devin Stephenson, Provost Brad Thiessen, Dr. Tanner McKnight, Bryan Brooks, David Blanton, Cole Allen, Kelli Stargel, Katie Daniel, Dr. Tom Dvorske, Dr. Jon Pawlecki, Kevin Calkins, and Kristen Wharton

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Approval of the May 21, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Trustee Derek Henderson motioned to approve the Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee meeting minutes of May 21, 2026. Trustee Sid Theis seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. 2026-2028 AERSS Committee Charter Review and Approval

Committee Chair Hagen presented the draft revision of the 2026–2028 Committee Charter, which separated purpose and responsibilities into two separate sections and added clarifying language under composition and meetings.

Trustee Sumanth Neelam motioned to approve the revised 2026–2028 Committee Charter as presented. Trustee Christie Bassett seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. 2026-2027 AERSS Committee Annual Work Plan Review and Approval

Trustees reviewed the Committee Work Plan for fiscal year 2027. There was no discussion on this item.

Trustee Sumanth Neelam motioned to approve the FY2027 Committee Work Plan as presented. Trustee Derek Henderson seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Academic Affairs and Research

A. Academic Affairs Report

Provost Brad Thiessen presented the Academic Affairs update, highlighting key accomplishments, performance metrics, and the following strategic priorities:

- **Accomplishments & Performance-Based Funding (PBF)**: Florida Poly achieved a record PBF score of 87 (a 13-point increase), securing full funding. Major accomplishments included comprehensive undergraduate program redesigns (adding 30 minors/certificates), the launch of new degree programs in Aerospace Engineering and Biomedical Sciences, the six-year BS-to-DO pathway with OCOM, institutional accreditation progress, and external research partnerships.
- **Student Success & Metrics**: While graduation rates saw double-digit percentage improvements, post-graduation employment, median starting salaries, and the Academic Progress Rate (APR) saw slight declines. Florida Poly remains #1 in the State University System (SUS) for graduate median starting salary. The projected APR improved to 76% (up from 70%), which would earn 10 PBF improvement points, though it remains below the Board's 83% target. Addressing DFW (Drop/Fail/Withdraw) course rates remains the primary focus for APR improvement.
- **Faculty Excellence**: The University hired 32 new faculty members, promoted seven, and brought the faculty rank distribution in line with national norms. Ongoing initiatives include the upcoming Faculty Exchange Summit, redesigning the Student Assessment of Instruction (SAI), streamlining faculty committees from 29 to five, and expanding the campus research infrastructure.
- **Academic Quality**: Focus areas include graduate and professional studies enhancement (incorporating co-ops and industry projects), AI curriculum integration (including a physics AI tutor), exploration of reduced-credit-hour programs pending Board of Governors (BOG) regulation, and preliminary planning for a Doctor of Engineering degree. Research activity at FIPR and the upcoming NanoFlorida conference were also highlighted.
- **Organizational Effectiveness & Accreditation**: The University is transitioning to managed growth and maintaining multi-agency accreditation efforts, including ABET, SACSCOC (in good standing; fifth-year report due in 2028), CPHE (awaiting USDOE recognition), and HLC (self-study submission planned by January 2027).

  Trustees inquired about industry advisory boards, the viability of 3-year reduced credit programs paired with fourth-year co-ops, strategies to enhance starting salaries, and methods for assessing the quality and value of student internships. Vice President Brooks and Provost Thiessen noted plans to implement employer/student feedback dashboards and explore structured graduate certificates and capstones.

B. Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Report

Provost Thiessen presented the annual compliance report required by state statute:

- **Posting Compliance**: 99.6% of non-exempt course sections (738 of 741) posted required syllabi and materials at least 45 days prior to the first day of class, surpassing the 95% state threshold.

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- **Cost & Attestation**: Approximately 50% of courses utilized zero-cost materials, and 16% utilized low-cost materials (under $20/credit hour). 100% of instructors completed the required textbook review attestations.

Trustee Christie Bassett motioned to approve the Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report for Fiscal Year 2025–26 to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Sumanth Neelam seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Foreign Influence Annual Report

Provost Thiessen presented the Foreign Influence Report, confirming that Florida Polytechnic University has no grants, agreements, partnerships, or contracts with institutions based in foreign countries of concern.

VIII. Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications Report

Vice President Bryan Brooks presented the Student Affairs and Enrollment update:

- **Admissions & Articulation**: Fall enrollment reached a record 2,342 students (a 35% increase since Summer 2024), with strong growth across FTIC and local counties (Polk, Orange, Hillsborough, Osceola). Transfer enrollment increased significantly, supported by the "Eagle to Phoenix" pathway articulation with Polk State College (26 incoming transfers). Net transfer deposits rose by 86%.
- **Compliance & Housing**: The University successfully cleared the State Auditor General Bright Futures and Florida Student Assistance Grant Audit with zero findings. Campus housing operated at near 100% capacity with an extensive summer waitlist.
- **Campus Life & Athletics**: Student engagement highlights included Purple Fire Week (over 1,750 participants), the Presidential Welcome BBQ (serving ~1,200 students), the launch of the First-Year Phoenix leadership program, and the inaugural men's soccer match.

In response to trustee inquiries, Brooks confirmed that detailed transfer origin data, GPA comparisons (noting strong academic profiles among student-athletes, averaging a 3.87 incoming GPA), and athletic academic support resources will be presented at the full Board meeting.

IX. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Hagen expressed appreciation to former Committee Chair Sidney Theis for his past leadership and welcomed Vice Chair Bassett. With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Kristen J. Wharton
Corporate Secretary

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Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee WORK PLAN 2026-2027

ITEMS TO REVIEW AS NEEDED

- Academic Affairs
  - Academic program updates, additions, terminations *(BOG Reg 8.012)*
  - Institutional and programmatic accreditation activity
  - Faculty hiring and activities
  - Research and industry partnerships
  - Student success

- Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
  - Admissions and Financial Aid
  - Student demographics
  - Student Affairs
  - Student Success

SEPTEMBER

- Academic & Student Affairs Committee Charter *(review and approve every two years – due September 2026)*
- Annual Textbook & Instructional Materials Report *(BOG Reg 8.003 – due Sept. 29; review and approve)*
- Sponsored Research Certification Report *(BOG Reg 10.002 - due Oct. 1; review only)*
- Foreign Influence Annual Report *(BOG Reg 9.012 – due Sept. 30; review and approve)*

NOVEMBER

- Academic & Student Affairs Reports

FEBRUARY

- CITF Increase, Inc. to Existing Fees or New Fees *(review and approve only if changes are proposed)*

APRIL

- University Accountability Plan *(BOG Reg 2.002; review and approve)*
- List of new academic degree programs for consideration *(BOG Reg 8.011; review as needed)*
- Alternative Admission Student Success *(BOG Reg 6.002; review and approve)*

JUNE

- General Education Courses *(BOG Reg 8.005 – due Sept. 1; review and approve)*

The Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee adopted the 2024-2026 Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee Work Plan on September 6, 2024. Revised on September 18, 2025. Second revision approved on September 18, 2026.

AGENDA ITEM: VI.

Florida Polytechnic University

Board of Trustees

Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee

November 10, 2026

Subject: Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications Report

Proposed Committee Action

Information only – no action required.

Background Information

Bryan Brooks, VP for Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications will give a brief update on activities and initiatives that reflect Florida Poly's strategic priorities for student affairs, enrollment management, and strategic communications. He will introduce Dr. Andy Oguntola, AVP for Enrollment Management, and Dr. Jon Pawlecki, AVP for Student Affairs, to give brief reports on their respective areas.

Enrollment Management

Dr. Oguntola will present an analysis of the recruitment season and review the most recent transfer class. Further, he will outline goals for the Fall 2027 incoming class at Florida Poly. The Fall 2027 goals are 4,800 applications, 20% yield, 70% FAFSA submission, 750 recruitment visits and 90% Florida-resident enrollment. Admissions now superscores ACT and SAT results, which means it uses each applicant's best section scores across all test dates.

Student Affairs

Campus engagement is high. Recreation facilities have logged 14,760 participations since August, led by the Phoenix (11,411) and esports (2,365), with six intramural leagues underway. Athletics completed its soccer and cross-country seasons and applied for NAIA and Sun Conference membership. The Fall Career Fair drew 56 employers and 789 students, and the University's Purple Star designation strengthened its veteran services.

Student well-being remains a priority. A new BetterMynd partnership provides after-hours therapy, a 24/7 crisis line and access to psychiatrists. Health Clinic visits rose 85.8% over fall 2025. Residence Life, Campus Activities Board and Student Government programs reached thousands of participants, including more than 800 students and family members at Family Day.

Student Success staff recorded more than 5,000 student meetings and connections. A new Advising Command Center early alert system shows success coaches each student's grades, missing assignments and action plan in one place. Finally, the new First-Year Phoenixes student organization is building students' leadership skills and connections with industry.

Supporting Documentation: N/A

Prepared by: Bryan Brooks, VP for Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications