

Florida Polytechnic University
Board of Trustees

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019
10:15 AM-11:15 AM

Florida Polytechnic University, Admissions Building, 4700 Research Way, Lakeland, FL 33805

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Richard Hallion called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 10:52 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Amy Devera called the roll: Committee Chair Richard Hallion, Trustee Jim Dewey, Trustee Henry McCance, Trustee Mark Bostick and Trustee Travis Hills were present (Quorum).

Other trustees present: Trustee Frank Martin, Trustee Cliff Otto, Trustee Gary Wendt, Trustee Bob Stork and Trustee Philip Dur.

Staff present: President Randy Avent, Provost Terry Parker, Mr. Mark Mroczkowski, Dr. Kathryn Miller, Dr. Tom Dvorske, Ms. Kathy Mizereck, Mr. Rick Maxey, Ms. Melaine Schmiz, Mrs. Kris Wharton, Mrs. Kim Abels and Ms. Amy Devera were present.

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Trustee Henry McCance made a motion to approve the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes of December 5, 2018. Trustee Mark Bostick seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. 2018-20 Strategic Planning Committee Work Plan Review

The 2018-2020 Work Plan remains unchanged and no discussion occurred.

VI. Provost Report

Provost Terry Parker reviewed activity aligned with the Work Plan, which included admissions and financial

aid, student services, four year graduation improvement plan, degree program additions, faculty hiring status, ABET accreditation, student and faculty diversity, technology and pedagogy and space planning.

A. Admissions and Financial Aid

Provost Parker reviewed the current admissions status compared to the admissions status of fall 2018. He noted that admittance is up as well as deposits. Florida Poly is currently projecting a smaller entering class for fall 2019, but that is a soft projection. Trustee Cliff Otto asked if there would be any concern in Tallahassee relative to the fact that enrollment is not growing, particularly in regards to the funding needed for the ARC. Ms. Kathy Mizereck stated she does not believe there will be an immediate reaction. Mr. Rick Maxey stated the Board of Governors will ask about it, but at this point he does not expect them to take any action. Provost Parker stated that the University is close to the accountability plan, noting a ten percent growth. Trustee Philip Dur asked if the chart displayed included resident aliens. Provost Parker stated that yes, it does include resident aliens. Trustee McCance asked if there was a new Director of Admissions and President Avent stated yes, there is a new Director of Admissions. Trustee Frank Martin questioned what the University is going to do next year to ensure that admissions numbers are higher. Provost Parker explained the University has started recruiting students at the beginning of their sophomore year in high school and that there should be significant gains shown next recruiting season.

B. Student Services

The University currently utilizes a network health provider and a case manager. Usage metrics indicate the University is reaching more students with the current support services. Provost Parker briefly touched on the current mental health utilization data.

The University recently held their annual Career Fair; 55 companies participated as well as 436 students.

“Student Experience – The First 45 Days” is a project that Dr. Kathryn Miller is working on. The project is a first-year excellence program that brings together enrollment management, student services, and first-year curriculum.

C. Four Year Graduation Improvement Plan

Provost Parker presented two charts depicting the population planning for the campus. An increase in student population will require significant effort in retention. Academic Affairs has spent much of its effort on how retention is supported. Provost Parker displayed a graph to visually show the First Time in College success metrics. The first three years were dominated by “opening pains” and the second two years were implementation of academic quality standards. Moving forward, the focus must be on better integration across the curriculum and stronger student life experiences. Trustee Dur asked if exit interviews were given to the students between “persist” and “retain”. Dr. Miller explained that that information is collected at every opportunity given. Trustee Otto questioned the difference between the gray bar and the black bar that was shown in the provided chart. Provost Parker explained there are students who get through certain measures, but do not retain sophomore year, and there is also a good number of students who will graduate at the 4.5 year mark. Provost Parker confirmed that another line will be added for the six year graduation rate. Trustee Louis Saco asked what would happen to a student’s scholarship at that point. Provost Parker explained that the scholarship has a four year life and there is no further scholarship after that. In addition, to retain a scholarship, the student must maintain a 2.75 GPA and also maintain a certain completion ratio in terms of the courses attempted. Trustee Saco asked if there was any flexibility to help the student and help the University with retention rates. Provost Parker explained that in terms of scholarships, the University’s position is appropriate and his focus is on a four year graduation plan. Provost

Parker briefly addressed the graduation rate support activity dashboard. The dashboard shows the difference in progress from September 2018 to March 2019.

D. Degree Program Additions

Provost Parker mentioned the University is currently developing three new degree programs: Engineering Mathematics, Engineering Physics, and Environmental Engineering. Dr. Tom Dvorske confirmed the programs should be added to the official degree inventory by the end of May. Provost Parker stated the University may consider developing a chemical engineering and civil engineering degree. The group briefly discussed how the University can continue to establish itself as a unique institution.

E. Faculty Hiring Status

Provost Parker stated faculty hiring continues appropriately and smoothly. He stated an additional twenty faculty members will be hired. Trustee Martin inquired as to faculty diversity. Provost Parker noted three new diverse faculty were hired in January. He also stated that more appropriate advertising venues are being utilized.

F. ABET Accreditation

Provost Parker stated the final result on ABET accreditation will be provided in late July.

G. Student and Faculty Diversity

Provost Parker briefly reviewed the status on student and faculty diversity.

H. Technology and Pedagogy

The University has hired a Director of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Douglas Holton.

I. Space Planning

The University will soon break ground on the new Applied Research Center (ARC). HOK is the architecture firm designing the ARC. The ARC will need to meet the University's planned academic needs through 2026. Provost Parker presented several slides provided by HOK showing how the new space will be utilized.

VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.