Florida Polytechnic University  
Board of Trustees  

Executive Committee Meeting  

MEETING MINUTES  

Monday, August 12, 2019  
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm  

TELE-CONFERENCE MEETING  

I. Call to Order  

Chair Don Wilson called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.  

II. Roll Call  

Kris Wharton called the roll: Chair Don Wilson, Vice Chair Cliff Otto, Trustee Mark Bostick, Trustee Philip Dur, Trustee Frank Martin, and Trustee Dick Hallion were present (Quorum).  

Staff present: President Randy Avent, Provost Terry Parker, Mr. Mark Mroczkowski, Mr. Rick Maxey, Mrs. Kris Wharton, Mr. Alex Landback, and Mr. Kevin Calkins were present.  

III. Public Comment  

There were no requests for public comment.  

IV. Approval of Minutes  

Trustee Dick Hallion made a motion to approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes of June 26, 2019. Vice Chair Cliff Otto seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.  

V. Revision of Accountability Plan  

Provost Terry Parker provided a high-level overview of the revisions to the 2019 Accountability Plan. He then reviewed each section where changes were made. He addressed the First Time in College (FTIC) four-year graduation rate; he expects to reach the 34-35% level in 2015-2019 and 2016-2020. However, to report those numbers now would be a lowering of institution's goals; instead, he is leaving the goal of 37% across the board noting the University will likely not meet those goals. For 2017-2021, he is forecasting 39% and expects to reach the 40% range in 2018-2022.  

President Randy Avent further explained why we are revising the Accountability Plan. The Board of Governors (BOG) is keen that all SUS universities set higher goals versus the comfortable goals presented to them at the last meeting in June. Provost Parker stated he will present these aspirational goals to the BOG at the end of August and tell them it will take a year or two until Florida Poly achieves these goals. He then reviewed what he projects the University will achieve in First Time in College (FTIC) graduation
rates: 2015-2019 (34.5%); 2016-2020 (34%); 2017-2021 (39%); and 2018-2022 (41%). Provost Parker is reluctant to report those as proposed goals; he would rather report the goal as 37% as stated above.

Trustee Philip Dur inquired as to why Provost Parker would use the proposed goal versus the more realistic goal. President Avent stated the Board of Governors wants the universities to set aggressive goals to aspire to and not lower goals that aren’t challenging enough. Trustee Dur understands the approach but is uncomfortable with this if the University knows it can’t achieve the more aggressive goals. He stated he will acquiesce if this is what the Board of Governors desires to see from the universities.

Chair Wilson stated he approves what President Avent and Provost Parker are proposing. President Avent shared that Florida Poly’s percentages are actually very good for a STEM-based school.

Provost Parker spoke about the academic progress rate from freshmen to sophomore year, followed by time-to-degree for First Time in College (FTIC) in 120-hour programs. The time-to-degree rate has been changed from 5.5 years to 4.7 years and Provost Parker feels confident it will eventually drop to 4.5 years. Regarding Bachelors’ degrees awarded, the number for 2019-2020 is 250. Going forward that number will increase. Total research expenditures for 2018-2019 was $1.3M. That number will decline in 2019-2020, driven by the loss of a single, large grant. Additionally, the enrollment model was revised, and new projections predict an undergraduate population growth from 1,279 in 2019-2020 to 1,546 by 2022.

Provost Parker shared a new program for consideration by the University - Cyber Physical Security - which is synergistic with the autonomous vehicle program. If the University can accomplish the requirements for adding a new program in time, Cyber Physical Security will be added in fall 2020.

Provost Parker reviewed other minor, small changes to the plan.

Trustee Dur inquired if the Board of Governors is interested in how the University’s trustees reacted to these changes. Mr. Rick Maxey suggested that the President, Provost, and Chair share with the Board of Governors that Florida Poly’s Board had a serious, in-depth discussion of these “stretch” goals and they understand that these goals may not be attainable in the first year or two.

Trustee Dick Hallion made a motion to approve the 2019 Revised Accountability Plan. Vice Chair Cliff Otto seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Amendment to Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA)

Provost Parker reviewed the mechanics of Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) renegotiations. Salaries, performance evaluations, and leave time were discussed. With state budgets cuts this year, no University employee received a raise in salary; however, Provost Parker stated he was able to offer a one-time payment to faculty to be made at the end of fall semester and based on classroom performance.

Trustee Philip Dur made a motion to approve the changes in Article 8 (Performance Evaluation), Article 10 (Leaves), and Article 12 (Salaries). The Board also approves editorial changes presented for the Preamble, Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, and Appendices A, B, and D. All of these changes are incorporated into the new contract which is approved, contingent upon adoption of the new contract by the UFF-Florida Poly chapter. Trustee Dick Hallion seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

President Avent shared that the University should hear soon if the institution’s ABET accreditation has
been approved. He also shared of his conversation with Board of Governors staff regarding the points-based system for PECO funding.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.