

Florida Polytechnic University
Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 1:00-1:15 PM

**Florida Polytechnic University, Student Development Center
4700 Research Way, Lakeland, FL 33805**

I. Call to Order

Chair Don Wilson called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Kris Wharton called the roll: Chair Don Wilson, Vice Chair Cliff Otto, Trustee Mark Bostick, Trustee Ryan Perez, Trustee Henry McCance, Trustee Victoria Astley, Trustee Frank Martin, Trustee Adrienne Perry, Trustee Earl Sasser, Trustee Lou Saco, and Trustee Gary Wendt were present (Quorum).

Trustees not present: Trustee Bob Stork, Trustee Philip Dur

Staff present: President Randy Avent, Provost Terry Parker, Mr. Mark Mroczkowski, Ms. Gina Delulio, Ms. Kathy Bowman, Mr. Rick Maxey, Mrs. Kris Wharton, Ms. Michele Rush, Mrs. Kim Abels, and Mr. David Blanton were present.

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Statement by the Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees opposing consolidation with the University of Florida

Chair Wilson read the formal statement opposing House Bill 7087 into the record (see Appendix A). Trustee Frank Martin suggested three minor changes in wording which trustees agreed to.

A motion was made by Trustee Gary Wendt to adopt the Statement by the Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees opposing House Bill 7087. Trustee Cliff Otto seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Closing Remarks and Recess

With no further business to conduct, Chair Wilson recessed the meeting until after the conclusion of the Workshop on Wednesday, February 26.



**Florida Polytechnic University
Board of Trustees**

**Statement by the Florida Polytechnic University
Board of Trustees opposing House Bill 7087**

The Florida Polytechnic University Trustees stand in opposition to HB 7087 and hereby urge those considering the pending legislation to merge Florida Poly with the University of Florida to carefully examine the facts and circumstances relied upon by those proposing this legislation.

The most frequently cited number in this discussion is the purported cost of a degree awarded at Florida Poly. It is critical to recognize that the cost being cited is based on Florida Poly's first graduating class in the 2017-2018 year. Everyone in business knows that the "cost" of the first production run at a new factory is a highly inflated number that includes capital and start-up costs. The same is true for a new university. In fact, the legislation that created Florida Poly recognized this fact, and allowed the new university to use operating funds for capital improvements for a period of ten years. The cost of the first degrees awarded by Florida Poly is by no means indicative of the costs incurred once the university matures and moves beyond being a start-up.

It is also important to consider that Florida Poly only awards STEM degrees, and these degrees are significantly more expensive at all state universities. Of course, when looking at "average" degree costs, all other state universities award primarily non-STEM degrees requiring far less expense, dramatically reducing the "average" degree cost.

Critical to this discussion is the fact that Florida Poly is vibrant, growing, and sought after by incoming students. In this year alone, student applications increased by more than 70% over the prior year. Students and their parents recognize the life-changing value of a degree from this institution, and high-quality students who want a career in a high-tech STEM field are hoping to be admitted to Florida Poly. Florida will be abandoning an outstanding opportunity for these students and our state if the proposed legislation is enacted.

From its inception, Florida Poly has planned for a flat administrative structure made possible by limiting degrees to common or similar disciplines. This single administrative silo will reduce administrative and overhead costs as the institution grows and matures. Given time and growth, there is no reason to assert that the per-degree costs for similar degree programs will be any greater at Florida Poly than at the other state universities.

When considering "costs," it is also necessary to look at "value" to determine the worth of an institution to the State of Florida. The Florida Chamber estimates that there are 55,000 unfilled STEM

jobs in this state, and various reports have expressed concern that the shortage of skilled workers in Florida threatens our economic growth. Florida Poly was created with the specific intent to address this issue and to produce the uniquely trained graduates who can fill this critical skills-gap.

Florida Poly is a vital driver of Florida’s economic future. Even in its infancy, Florida Poly is estimated to produce \$161 million in gross domestic product for our state and to sustain 2,350 jobs that annually generate \$97.6 million in wages and business income. Looking at what has taken place around polytechnic universities in other states, it is clear these institutions are a prime breeding ground for high-tech industries and business. That dynamic has already begun in the area surrounding Florida Poly, and for Florida a new wave of high-value, high-tech economic growth is now underway. The proposed merger can only diminish this important economic development.

Finally, we believe that the abandonment of the dream represented by Florida Poly simply disregards the thousands of people—students, faculty, staff, alumni, officials, participants in direct support organizations and other supporters—who have made significant investments and have given of their time, efforts and resources in support of Florida Poly.

Florida Poly represents a clear and bright beacon in Florida’s future guiding us to a place where the economy is stronger, our citizens have greater opportunities, our students are getting a world-class education for the jobs of the future, and Florida is simply a better place to live.

The Board of Trustees of Florida Polytechnic University respectfully contends that there is no possible on-going benefit from the elimination of this University, and that such action will deny this state of one of its most important institutions benefitting education and the economy in Florida’s future.

Signed: _____
Donald H. Wilson, Board Chairman

Clifford K. Otto, Board Vice Chairman

Dr. Adrienne Perry

Bob Stork

Frank T. Martin

Gary C. Wendt

Henry McCance

Dr. Louis Saco

Mark Bostick

Ryan Perez

Dr. Victoria Astley

Rear Admiral Philip Dur

Dr. W. Earl Sasser

Florida Polytechnic University
Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Florida Polytechnic University, Student Development Center
4700 Research Way, Lakeland, FL 33805

I. Call to Order

Chair Don Wilson reconvened the Board of Trustees meeting at 9:30 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Kris Wharton called the roll: Chair Don Wilson, Vice Chair Cliff Otto, Trustee Mark Bostick, Trustee Ryan Perez, Trustee Henry McCance, Trustee Victoria Astley, Trustee Adrienne Perry, Trustee Earl Sasser, Trustee Philip Dur, Trustee Lou Saco, and Trustee Gary Wendt were present (Quorum).

Trustees not present: Trustee Frank Martin, Trustee Bob Stork

Staff present: President Randy Avent, Provost Terry Parker, Mr. Mark Mroczkowski, Ms. Gina Delulio, Ms. Kathy Bowman, Mr. Rick Maxey, Mrs. Kris Wharton, Mr. David Calhoun, Ms. Michele Rush, Mrs. Kim Abels, and Mr. David Blanton were present.

III. Public Comment

There were two requests received for public comment. Dr. Kathryn Miller and Dr. Tom Dvorske both spoke to the Statement by the Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees opposing consolidation with the University of Florida.

IV. Chairman's Remarks

Due to time constraints of one trustee who needed to leave the meeting early, Chair Don Wilson moved the consent agenda and committee reports ahead of the presentations. Also, President Randy Avent did not provide any President's remarks as he remains in Tallahassee.

V. Consent Agenda

Chair Wilson read the list of items to be approved on the consent agenda:

A. Academic & Student Affairs Committee

1. Approve Regulation FPU-2.001 Admission to the University and Appeal Process – General

- B. Governance Committee
 - 1. Approve Regulation FPU-1.01 Service of Process
- C. Audit & Compliance Committee
 - 1. Approve the Foundation Financial Audit FYE 6/30/19
 - 2. Approve the Crowe Internal Management and Accounting Control and Business Process Assessment (November 2019)
- D. Finance & Facilities Committee
 - 1. Approve Resolution for Signature Authority on Depository Accounts
- E. Board of Trustees
 - 1. Approve the December 11, 2019 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

As each of the items comes before the Board with unanimous approval from the respective Committees, there is no need for a second. **Trustee Gary Wendt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

VI. Committee Reports

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Trustee Adrienne Perry stated the Academic and Student Affairs Committee learned that the incoming number and quality of student applications remains strong with the current focus on matriculation. The University will add a summer cohort this year which will be conducted 100% online. The Committee also approved Regulation FPU-2.001 Admission to the University and Appeal Process – General which was just ratified as part of the full Board’s consent agenda.

B. Governance Committee

Trustee Philip Dur related changes to the Governance Committee’s Work Plan. The Committee moved the evaluation discussion and recommendation on the President’s 2019-20 evaluation outcome and compensation from the May meeting to the December meeting. This will result in the evaluation process taking place after completion of the fiscal year being evaluated and will also allow for the collection of relevant data in its final form. At the May meeting, the Committee will use a report from the President on accomplishments to make a recommendation on renewal of President’s employment agreement for July 2020-July 2021 only (transition year).

The Committee also discussed the process for making nominations to the Board for the offices of Chair and Vice Chair in preparation for the election that will take place at the May meeting. They instructed the General Counsel to email all trustees eligible to serve as officers in order to allow them to express their interest and willingness to be considered in the nomination process. Ms. Gina Delulio will report the responses at the next Governance Committee meeting.

In preparation for making decisions related to renewing the President’s current Employment Agreement, the Committee reviewed proposed changes to the President’s employment agreement. One of the changes was related to the performance compensation (bonus). The Committee will make a recommendation on the Agreement and on renewal of the Agreement at the May meeting.

Finally, Mr. David Brunell, Assistant General Counsel presented an overview of Regulation FPU-1.01

Service of Process which was just approved by the full Board in the consent agenda.

Trustee Wendt asked if all trustees will be apprised in any changes the Governance Committee makes in the President's compensation package and why. Trustee Dur answered in the affirmative.

C. Finance & Facilities Committee

Trustee Henry McCance reviewed the presentations the committee received on the budget development process, the University's half-year financial review for quarter ended December 31, 2019, and the University Foundation's second-quarter financial review and 2019 annual fund update. The Committee accepted and approved Resolution 2020-001 to update the authorized signatories for checks, payments and transfers of funds.

The Committee recommended the Board approve the Skanska USA Building Inc. (Skanska), Guaranteed Maximum Price Phase II ("GMP 02"), in the amount of \$17.7M, for the Applied Research Center construction contract. Trustee Philip Dur seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Strategic Planning Committee

Trustee Mark Bostick stated the Committee made one change to its Work Plan, moving consideration of the University's 2020 Accountability Report from February to April. This allows adequate time for all the data to be gathered. The Committee voted to make an April Executive Committee meeting a standing meeting to specifically address consideration of the annual Accountability Report.

Mr. David Calhoun presented the process for updating the ten-year Campus Master Plan which is required by law to be undertaken at least every five years. Florida Poly's update is due in 2021 and must include all facilities desired to be constructed during the ten-year life of the plan. The process also requires that six agencies and the host local community be provided with an opportunity to review and comment on the plan. After the Campus Master Plan is adopted, the University must negotiate with the host local community to identify and pay for impacts to infrastructure such as roads and utilities.

E. Audit & Compliance Committee

Trustee Gary Wendt reviewed the updates the Committee heard, including Audit & Compliance activities, external and internal audits, foundation operating and scholarship funds, and the House Select Committee on Research Integrity. Additionally, the Foundation Financial Audit for FYE 6/30/19 and the Crowe Internal Control and Business Process Assessment Report were approved in the Board's consent agenda.

VII. University Relations: Marketing & Communications Update

Maggie Mariucci, AVP University Relations, introduced two members of her team who gave in-depth presentations on the University's internal and external communications and marketing efforts. Trustee Dur asked Lydia Guzman, Director of Communications, to include a chart that shows media coverage by region. Laura Neff-Henderson also received a compliment from Trustee Adrienne Perry on the updates to the University website.

VIII. University Police: Active Assailant Protocol

University Police Chief, Rick Holland, presented information on the University's active assailant training for both his officers and University employees. He also shared the University Police department expects to achieve their Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation by June 2020.

IX. Faculty Presentation

Dr. Reinaldo Sanchez-Arias, Assistant Professor, Data Science and Business Analytics, shared his current work which includes teaching data science undergraduate and graduate courses, and performing research in the areas of dimensionality reduction, text mining and data visualization.

IX. Student Introduction

Vamsi Hanumanthu, Computer Science major, shared a presentation on his journey through Florida Polytechnic University. Vamsi anticipates graduating in May of this year and anticipates going back to MIT to officially begin his career.

X. Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar

Chair Wilson reviewed the Board of Trustees meeting calendar. The next meeting is the Board of Trustees retreat, May 18-19, 2020.

XI. Board of Governors Meetings

Chair Wilson reviewed the Board of Governors meeting calendar and encouraged trustees to attend these meetings when possible. The next meeting is March 24-25, 2020 at USF in Tampa.

XIV. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.