

Florida Polytechnic University
Board of Trustees

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

12:45 pm – 1:45 pm

**Florida Polytechnic University, IST 1046
4700 Research Way, Lakeland, FL 33805**

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Mark Bostick called the Strategic Planning Committee meeting to order at 12:50 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Michele Rush called the roll: Committee Chair Mark Bostick, Vice Chair Cliff Otto, Trustee Ryan Perez, Trustee Adrienne Perry and Trustee Dick Hallion were present (Quorum).

Staff present: Mr. Rick Maxey, Ms. Michele Rush, Mrs. Kim Abels, Mr. John Irvine, Mr. Derek Horton and Mr. Alex Landback were present.

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Trustee Dick Hallion made a motion to approve the Strategic Planning Committee meeting minutes of March 13, 2019. Trustee Ryan Perez 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. Research Development Authority Resolution

The Committee reviewed a request to approve a resolution that would authorize the University to partner with a Research and Development Authority that may be established by the Polk County Board of Commissioners.

The Authority would serve as the entity that would lead development of a research park on land

around Florida Poly. Florida law gives such an entity wide ranging, independent authority to undertake such a project and assume the liability for the project. After creation by the Board of County Commissioners, approval would be sought by the Board of Governors to finalize the establishment of the Research Development Authority.

Vice Chair Otto questioned if the joint Innovation District initiative between Lakeland, Winter Haven and Auburndale that was mentioned in the local paper was a part of this Research Development Authority Resolution. Mr. Maxey responded that the Innovation District was put into place to protect the land surrounding Florida Polytechnic University and beyond while things are being worked out. While not a legally binding contract or agreement, this could potentially alleviate incompatible land usage between now and when the land is bought and developed.

Trustee Bostick asked what the timeline would be to get county approval, land purchased, and construction started. Mr. Maxey advised there is not a timeline at this point as purchasing the land has been under negotiations for some time.

Trustee Adrienne Perry made a motion to recommend approval of the resolution to authorize Florida Polytechnic University to partner with a Research Development Authority to the Board of Trustees. Vice Chair Cliff Otto seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. 2018 – 2019 Equity Report

The Committee also reviewed the 2019 Equity Report which gives a snapshot of the diversity on campus among the students, faculty and staff. The report is required by Board of Governors regulation and is compiled in a system wide view of diversity within Florida's public universities. Florida Poly numbers show that the institution is making progress in some areas compared to previous years and continues to seek improvement in others. When compared to the University's peers, Florida Poly performs comparatively well. In comparison to the State University System as a whole, the institution does well in some areas and not as well in others.

The Committee discussed some of the challenges the University faces and the need to continue working to have a diverse campus as it relates to students, faculty, and staff. Mr. Maxey advised the committee that on October 19th, Florida Polytechnic University is hosting an Inaugural Diversity Fest, an event entirely dedicated to celebrating and embracing diversity on campus. Participants will be able to showcase their culture or social group.

Trustee Adrienne Perry expressed concern that raising the enrollment standards will further impact minorities. Mr. Maxey explained that Florida Polytechnic University is recruiting heavily to all groups of students, including minorities, and is working hard to create communities for all students.

Trustee Dick Hallion made a motion to recommend approval of the 2018 – 2019 Equity Report to the Board of Trustees. Vice Chair Cliff Otto seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.