

Florida State University  
Board of Trustees Virtual Meeting  
Thursday, August 13, 2020  
1:00 pm  
MEETING MINUTES

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Attendees: Max Alvarez, Kathryn Ballard, Ed Burr, Billy Buzzett, Eric Chicken, June Duda, Jorge Gonzalez, Jim Henderson, Jonathan Levin, Craig Mateer, Brent Sembler, Bob Sasser, and John Thiel

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

*Mr. Ed Burr, Chair*

Chair Burr called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Lynna Sands conducted the roll call and confirmed a quorum.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)**

- June 4, 2020, ZOOM Virtual Meeting Minutes
- June 18, 2020, ZOOM Virtual Meeting Minutes

The June 4 and June 18, 2020, Virtual Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Michael Yost, Executive Vice President of Graduate Systems United, provided comments on behalf of Hayley Lemoine. She is requesting that the Board of Trustees require all departments to extend an extra year of funding for current students because of the COVID-19 setbacks.

Ms. Aislinn Roxanne Brookshire, Graduate Assistant, asked Trustees to consider how the University is extending an additional year of funding for research.

**IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Mr. John Thrasher, President*

President Thrasher opened with comments regarding the Fall re-opening plan that addresses every aspect of academic and campus life.

Additionally, he spoke about the hope of playing football this fall. FSU hosted a roundtable discussion and press conference that included Governor Ron DeSantis. FSU is making every effort to provide the players and coaches a structured and safe environment to play football on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

He briefed the board on the "Stay Healthy FSU" campaign that promotes wearing face masks, washing hands and monitoring symptoms. Faculty, students, and staff were urged to stay home if they are sick. An adjusted attendance policy allows students to

not be penalized if they miss class. We will be flexible and ready to adjust the fall plan if the COVID-19 circumstances change.

The COVID-19 testing for students and employees has been a big part of our plan with the assistance of University Health Services, the College of Medicine and Capital Regional Medical Center. He thanked the Office of Research and Tallahassee Memorial Health Care for their efforts in getting the COVID laboratory up and running. They are processing approximately 1,000 tests per a day.

He recognized Vice President Gary Ostrander and his success last year leading FSU to another record year in research funding of \$250 million from federal, state, and other resources.

He congratulated the recent recipients for the McKnight Junior Faculty Fellowship - Cameron Beatty, Anasa Hicks, Ravi Howard, April Jackson, Yolanda Rankin and James Wright.

Summer Commencement was held virtually on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The commencement speaker was Coach Leonard Hamilton. Coach Hamilton provided an inspiring speech with some wise words to move forward during this global pandemic and period of social unrest.

President Thrasher briefed the board on the status of the President's Task Force on anti-racism, equity, and inclusion. Professor Maxine Montgomery, Chair, will have their first meeting soon.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS AND UPDATES**

### **A. Office of Research**

*Dr. Gary Ostrander, Vice President for Research*

#### **Information Items**

1. Year-End Research Numbers
2. Opening of FSU Rapid Response COVID Test Laboratory

Vice President Ostrander provided a FY-2020 Research Funding (proposals, awards, and dollars) update. Awards include money received from Triumph and Koch Foundation.

Additionally, the opening of the FSU Rapid Response COVID Test Laboratory, which is partnered with Tallahassee Memorial Health Care. The lab is currently processing 1,056 tests/day or 5,280/week within 8-24 hours.

**B. Student Affairs Committee**

*Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Mr. John Thiel, Chair*

Trustee Thiel expressed appreciation to President Thrasher and administration regarding the leadership position during this time. He introduced the Title IX and student code of conduct and the student organization conduct code.

Dr. Angela Chong provided information regarding the federal legislation changes and adjustments needed in the Student Code of Conduct and Student Organization Code of Conduct to put them in line with the federal legislation. The largest change is heightened procedural standards for institutions of higher education to allow for live hearings with the ability for advisors of any student involved to be able to conduct cross examination or the ability to ask questions of anyone providing information during that hearing. The information that is subject to questioning by the advisor of the student involved, will be allowed to be relied upon for a decision of responsibility.

**Action Items**

1. Requesting Approval of Emergency Regulation to update FSU-3.004 Student Conduct Code (Adopt FSU-ER20-1 Student Conduct Code)

*Trustee Duda moved to approve the Emergency Regulation to update FSU-3.004 Student Conduct Code. Trustee Thiel seconded the motion and was approved unanimously (13-0).*

2. Requesting Approval of Emergency Regulation to update FSU-3.0041 Student Organization Conduct Code (Adopt-ER20-2 Student Organization Conduct Code)

*Trustee Sembler moved to approve the Emergency Regulation to update FSU-3.0041 Student Organization Conduct Code. Trustee Alvarez seconded the motion and was approved unanimously (13-0).*

**C. Finance and Business Committee**

*Mr. Kyle Clark, Vice President for Finance & Administration  
Mr. Bob Sasser, Chair*

Trustee Sasser provided a brief update on the Finance & Business Committee including the regulations that are on the agenda for approval.

Mr. Clark introduced and welcomed Rich Rind, new Parking & Transportation Director. Mr. Rind has recommended updates and changes to the Parking & Traffic Regulation.

### **Action Items**

1. Requesting Approval of the FSU-2.009 Parking and Traffic Regulations

*Trustee Thiel moved to approve the FSU-2.009 Parking and Traffic Regulations. Trustee Sembler seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.*

2. Requesting Approval of Amendment to FSU 2.024 Tuition and Fees

*Trustee Sembler moved to approve the FSU-2.024 Tuition and Fees. Trustee Duda seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.*

### **D. Athletics**

*Mr. David Coburn, Athletics Director*

#### **Information Item**

1. Introduction of Mr. Michael Alford, CEO Seminole Boosters

Mr. Coburn introduced the incoming CEO of Seminole Boosters, Mr. Michael Alford who comes with experience from Central Michigan University, University of Alabama, Oklahoma, USC, and the Dallas Cowboys. Mr. Alford expressed his excitement to join Florida State University on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Coburn provided a few remarks regarding the upcoming football and athletic seasons including:

- The Big 10 and Pac 12 conferences have chosen not to play their season
- The Big 12, ACC & SEC are proceeding to play this season.
- Medical Advisory Group has weighed the risk with cardiologists from Duke and Emory to discuss Myocarditis and the conclusion is we should be able to manage the risks and play
- Football, soccer, volleyball, and cross country are moving forward with their seasons
- NCAA will be making decisions regarding NCAA National Championships within football, soccer, volleyball, and cross country
- Decisions regarding basketball season have not been made

Additional information provided by Mr. Coburn includes:

- COVID-specific website has launched for athletics, students, and parents. This will provide several links to medical information through the university, ACC and NCAA sites.
- He recognized the recent death of former men's basketball player, Michael Ojo. He impacted so many through basketball and will be missed.

- Student-athletes are provided an option to opt out and not play this fall, but they will continue to receive their financial aid. Currently, two football players have chosen to opt out of the 2020 season.
- Seating in the bowl and Champions Club will be limited to 20-25% capacity. Ticket options available are season tickets, or three game packages. For boosters that would like to skip this season, they are being given the option to apply their money to next season.
- Staff is continuing to work on a comprehensive set of protocols for health and cleanliness.
- Mr. Coburn also provided an update on the Austin case in California that is related to the federal anti-trust case against the NCAA regarding national limits on scholarship and other forms of aid. This means we will go through one full recruiting cycle without limits on computers, instruments and other equipment related to the pursuit of academic studies.

**Action Items**

1. Requesting Approval of the 2020-2021 ACC Governing Board Certification

*Trustee Duda moved to approve the 2020-2021 ACC Governing Board Certification. Trustee Ballard seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.*

**E. Faculty Senate Steering Committee**

*Dr. Erin Ryan, Vice Chair*

**Action Items**

1. Requesting Approval for Resolution in Support of the College of Law Building Legislative Action

*Trustee Chicken moved to approve the Resolution in Support of the College of Law Building Legislative Action. Trustee Levin seconded the motion and the motion passed 12-1 (Alvarez).*

**VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

*Mr. Ed Burr, Chair*

Chair Burr thanked the Trustees for participating in the Virtual Board of Trustees Meeting. He announced the next meeting on September 10 & 11, 2020, but unsure at this time if the meeting will be in-person or virtual.

## **VII. OPEN FORUM FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*Mr. Ed Burr, Chair*

Trustee Duda inquired about the COVID test requirement prior to students arriving on campus. Vice President Hecht clarified that it is highly encouraged for students to get tested, but students living on campus are required to be tested.

Trustee Mateer expressed concern of students being tested, moving into their dorm prior to receiving their results. The concern of a positive test entering the dorm.

Chair Burr reminded trustees of the next meeting on September 10 & 11, 2020. A determination will be made for an in-person or virtual meeting closer to the meeting date.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 pm.