

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020
8:30 AM
MEETING MINUTES

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*

*Attended virtually via ZOOM Video Conferencing

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mr. Ed Burr, Chair

Chair Burr called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Lynna Sands conducted the roll call and confirmed a quorum.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)

- August 13, 2020, Virtual Board Meeting

The August 13, 2020, Virtual Board Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Leah Delaney, President, Graduate Assistants United, expressed concern of the recent increase in cost for health insurance causing a pay cut for many graduate assistants.

Mr. Michael Yost, Executive Vice President of Graduate Assistants United, provided comments on behalf of Isabel Crocker. Due to the Corona virus, she moved back to Texas to live with family and continued through the summer semester. This affected her Florida residency qualification causing her to owe almost \$6,000 in tuition fees.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. John Thrasher, President

President Thrasher began his update regarding the fall semester and the completion of the 3rd week of the semester. With approximately 44,000 students enrolled, students are participating in a combination of on-line and in-person classes. The increase of students from last year is primarily due to graduate student enrollment. Most classes are being taught remotely at FSU.

President thanked his leadership team for their efforts during this time. A plan was developed and provided to the FLBOG, which covers all aspect of campus life to include cleaning, testing contract tracing, which have allowed us to open campus to students this Fall. He specifically acknowledged the leadership of Jonathon Levin, SGA President, as he worked with the students.

We are aware of some issues, off campus, of a small number of students not social distancing and/or not wearing masks. Everyone needs to embrace the recognized guidelines to insure the health and safety of our campus.

President Thrasher provided COVID 19 testing data. Approximately 12,250 tests were conducted on our faculty, staff, and students. Of these, 902 students have tested positive along with 16 faculty and staff for an overall 7.5% positivity rate. Unfortunately, the last week has brought on a further increase. Between September 2nd and 8th, we recorded 691 positives out of 3,406 tests for a positivity rate just above 20%. Fortunately, we are not aware of any students that have been hospitalized and most are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms.

President Thrasher described some of the processes that we have put in place for protection of our FSU community. He went on to encourage students and employees to test. We will also be initiating a random testing program to start September 14th. The goal would be to test 5-10% of those on campus daily.

The President described how there have been lots of on-campus meetings, meetings with SUS, the Chancellor, and the FLBOG as we all work to figure out the best path forward for our respective institutions. Finally, he also confirmed that FSU leadership is regularly meeting with community leaders, vendors, and business owners.

The President reported that he is often asked if there is a specific number of cases that would trigger a change in campus operations? He pointed out that this is more complicated than just a single number. He went on to state that all decisions are being made in consolidation with public health experts and medical experts. He then asked Kyle and Amy to add comments.

President Thrasher discussed the status of the President's Task Force on Anti-Racism and Inclusion. He charged this committee to accelerate our goal to strengthen FSU's diversity. He thanked Professor Maxine Montgomery for chairing the task force. FSU is also working with Jewish student leaders, national Jewish organizations, and advisors. He is confident that the work of these groups will make the university more inclusive. He concluded by announcing that FSU named a Diversity Champion by Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award

He recognized Opening Nights and the new season announcement. Due to COVID, the performing arts program has had to make a lot of adjustments and deal with new challenges.

US News and World Report will announce on Monday of the Top 20 universities.

V. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Requesting Approval for the Textbook and Instructional Material Affordability Report
- B. Requesting Approval of Revision to Regulation FSU-5.098 Textbook Adoption and Affordability
- C. Requesting Approval for the 2020-2021 Carryforward Spending Plan
- D. Requesting Approval for the 2020-2021 Revised Fixed Capital Outlay Budget
- E. Requesting Approval for the Status Report on Purchase Orders over \$1.0 million and 5+ Year service Contracts
- F. Requesting Approval of the 2020-2021 Annual Audit Work Plan
- G. Requesting Approval of Revision to Regulation FSU-3.004 Student Conduct Code
- H. Requesting Approval of Revision to Regulation FSU-3.0041 Student Organization Conduct Code

Trustee Alvarez moved to approve Consent Items A-H. Trustee Mateer seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS AND UPDATES

A. Academic Affairs Committee

*Dr. Sally McRorie, Provost
Mr. Jim Henderson, Chair*

Provost Sally McRorie provided regarding Academic Affairs including an update on faculty and the move to online learning. Approximately, 1,000 faculty engaged in training for online learning. FSU faculty also produced record research expenditures and continue to be recognized for their research, creative & service excellence. Faculty awards have increased by 75%. Recent award recipients include Igor Alabugin, Top American Chemistry Association Award, Nicole Patton Terry, Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and Michelle Whyman, Fenno Prize for Legislative Studies. Recent McKnight Junior Faculty Fellows include Yolanda Rank, School of Information, Ravi Howard, English, April Jackson, Urban and Regional Planning, Cameron Beatty, Educational Leadership, Anasa Hicks, History and James Wright, Public Administration.

Mr. John Barnhill provided an update regarding admissions and enrollment. FSU has a record number of 64,000 freshman applications for Fall 2020 with 6,000 new freshmen enrolled this fall. A record number of 14,225 graduate school application and 3,700 new graduate students (up 65%). Additionally, a record 4-year graduation rate.

Dean Mark Riley provided a graduate school application and admissions update.

An updated regarding student success community building programs including Nole2Nole which is a peer mentoring programing for first-year students that are not on campus. They are paired up with an upper division student that have discussions regarding goal concerns. Transfer Genius is a program designed to

help transfer students adjust to life at FSU during their first semester. They are partnered with a un undergraduate volunteer. The third program, Florida State Anywhere, was created to assist first time and transfer students remaining at home and learning remotely. These programs will allow students to be engaged, which is the key to success.

Provost McRorie presented the Legislative Budget Request for approval. Included in the LBR ask is a total of \$45 million. The first one is \$25 million and is primarily for research faculty graduate students' success, undergraduate students' success and improving excellence and equity faculty. The second one is for \$20 million - UF & USF, other preeminent Universities, received \$20 million recurring for operational expenses. FSU has not received such funding. We need that kind of funding as much as our preeminent peers, and that it is appropriate that we ask to be recognized for the kinds of investments that we have to make in order to remain preeminent and to continue to move up in our national rankings and be respected nationally and internationally.

Action Item

A. Requesting Approval of the 2021-2022 Legislative Budget Request

Trustee Chicken moved to approve the 2021-2022 Legislative Budget Request. Trustee Mateer seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

B. Student Affairs Committee

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

Student Affairs Committee Chair, Mr. John Thiel, provided a summary of the Student Affairs Committee Meeting. The Student Conduct Codes were reviewed and approved by the Student Affairs Committee.

C. Finance and Business Committee

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

Finance and Business Committee Chair, Mr. Bob Sasser, provide a Finance & Business committee report. The Committee reviewed and approved the Carryforward Spending Plan, Revised Fixed Capital Outlay Budget, and Purchase Orders over \$1.0 million and 5+ year service contracts

Vice President Kyle Clark provided updates regarding campus projects including the statuses of the Student Union Replacement, Hoffman Teaching Labs, Bio Unit 1 Third Floor Renovations, STEAM Classroom Building & Auditorium, Harpe-Johnson Renovation for ROTC, and Bayside Residence Hall (Panama City Campus).

Vice President Clark recognized Mr. Dennis Bailey and his upcoming retirement from FSU Facilities. He will retire October 2020 after 18 years with Florida State University.

A Finance & Administration update was also provided which included information regarding the Budget Office, Environmental Health & Safety, Sustainability, Planning & Space Management, Property Acquisition & Mapping, Maintenance, Police Department, Controller's Office, Procurement, Business Services, Human Resources, COVID-19 Financial Impact, Procurement Total Benefits and US Public Colleges and Universities Ratings.

Finally, Vice President Clark introduced Mr. Dave Irvin, incoming Associate Vice President for Facilities. He will start September 2020.

D. Office of Research

Dr. Gary Ostrander, Vice President for Research

Vice President Gary Ostrander provided a update regarding FSU Research Funding that included a comparison of federal, state and other funding of proposals, awards and dollars for FY20 vs. FY21.

An introduction and welcome of the new Director of FSU Coastal & Marine Laboratory, Joel Trexler. An FSU Alum, he comes back following his time at FIU as the Director of Marine Sciences.

Additionally, he provided an update regarding Big Bets Pilot Program, which is designed to obtain transformational funding for research centers and institutes from private sources. The four centers selected are Florida Center for Reading Research, Institute for Justice Research and Development, Health Data Science, Resilient Infrastructure and Disaster Response.

Vice President Ostrander provided information regarding the FSU-TMH COVID Rapid Response Lab, which is operating on campus.

E. University Advancement

Mr. Andy Jhanji, Interim Vice President for University Advancement

Interim Vice President Andy Jhanji provided an update on the FY2020 gift commitments and endowments for the Direct Support Organizations as of June 2020.

Additionally, he reviewed the 2021 proposal pipelines and the strategies, which include social media engagement, digital event attendance, and micro-volunteering or mentorship participation. Also, equipping gift officers with the tools they need to move cultivation forward.

University Advancement continues to engage their staff and fundraisers in various training including FSU HR Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Professional Donor Relationships.

Jhanji reviewed some of the recent FSU Real Estate Foundation gifts including FSU Real Estate Center for student investment fund for \$249,000 and first real estate benefit to the College of Communication and Information for \$210,000. The planning and coordinating of the Hotel & Convention Center project continues.

The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art recently reopened on May 26th, with safety protocols. Virtual offerings were developed in conjunction with the “Museum From Home” program.

FSU Alumni Association has hosted 18 virtual engagements since March 17th, which had more than 1,000 registrants, 720 attendees and thousands of views on social media. The fall will continue with 20 virtual opportunities including Notable Noles and Askew Awards. Additionally, the Alumni membership has seen an 8.69% increase in the last year and the Seminole Clubs have given \$112,000 in scholarships to 104 students.

Finally, the FSU Foundation has recognized the importance of digital/technology during the pandemic and have incorporated many digital-first touchpoints including ThankView, Zoom Webinars, DocuSign, EverTrue. Development Officers continue to focus on cultivation during this time as they analyze prospect portfolios, developing robust solicitation strategy for each prospect and adding leads to each development officer’s portfolio for assessment/contact.

F. Athletics

Mr. David Coburn, Athletics Director

Athletic Director, David Coburn, thanked and acknowledged Vice President Gary Ostrander for his assistance with COVID testing and the Athletic Department. This has allowed our teams to compete.

AD Coburn provided an update regarding several issues pertaining to athletics. First the Supreme Court has denied the stay on the Austin case. Second, in regard to the name, image and likeness, we have an internal group headed by Ashton Henderson and they are working on developing a program, including courses to teach our student athletes. Finally, there are no current developments on transfers.

Budget reductions were recently implemented in athletics across the board that included tiered salary reductions, the elimination of 25 positions and freeze on non-essential vacant positions. The evaluation of furlough implementation throughout the department continues and looks to happen soon due to the substantial increased costs from COVID for screening, testing, cleaning, facility modifications and additional staffing. There is an \$11 million in lost revenue.

Due to COVID, the NCAA now plans to host fall national championships in the spring. The ACC has adopted limited competition schedules for fall Olympic sports with the plan to

A summary of what is expected for the upcoming football game and fans was provided. Parking lots will open two hours prior to kickoff and close 2 and half hours following the end of the game. Tailgates are not permitted. Private suites and premium areas will be open with restricted elevator access and distancing guidelines. Additionally, all occupied seats in the bowl will have chairbacks, students' seats will be marked with stickers. No more than 6 people in a group in the student section. All seats will be distanced vertically, horizontally, and diagonally. The Marching Chiefs will perform in reduced numbers from their seats as well as cheerleaders. With regards to TV production and radio, ESPN will rely on university production team for most home games. Gene Deckerhoff and William Floyd are going to use satellite.

Women's Basketball Coach, Sue Semrau, will be taking a leave of absence due to family medical and Coach Brooke Wycoff will be the acting head coach.

The ACC set up a committee for racial and social justice and announced three major initiatives for this year mandatory diversion. Diversity and Inclusion training for all student athletes and staff including the conference staff creation of an ACC unity symbol, as a visual representation of our solidarity. The creation of an ACC unity statement, which will be read prior to every league contest in all sports.

The new president of Seminole Boosters, Michael Alford, officially joined at the beginning of September and hit the ground running.

Seminole Boosters have received \$94 million in pledges for the Unconquered Campaign. The Renaissance Campaign has generated \$16 million in pledges and commitments.

G. Faculty Senate Steering Committee

Dr. Erin Ryan, Vice Chair

Dr. Ryan provided an update on recent Faculty Senate Steering Committee meetings, which were held weekly during the summer in response to the crisis. The Senate is gratified by the Boards vote in support of their call for legislative action to enable FSU to rename the law school building.

Dr. Ryan raised concerns by the faculty as the increasing numbers of positive Corona virus cases on campus. Faculty are pressing for faster access to the daily data from the testing center. A concern that students are choosing to get tested off campus in order to avoid the FTC reporting requirements, which affects the university's efforts of contact tracing.

Faculty are asking if any additional steps to discipline students who violate pandemic related codes of conduct or behavioral norms.

H. Student Government Association

Ms. Nastassia Janvier, Vice President of Student Government Association

Ms. Janvier provided a SGA update including an effort led by student leaders to continue to keep our community safe, which includes state-wide conversations and a student pledge campaign, #pledgeth. Students are asked to take the pledge to do their part to combat COVID-19. The campaign is paired with a competitive incentive against the University of Florida students. The losing institute's president and SGA president will wear the opposing institute's colors and sing their fight song. The campaign will end on September 13th.

SGA continues to provide programming virtually to different groups of interest. Various student unions continue to host their general body meetings virtually.

Finally, the diversity and inclusion initiatives within the executive branch have multiple people appointed to various task force groups to ensure that we're serving as voices of students in regards to anti-Semitism and the Presidential task force for anti-racism. SGA is working with diverse departments in Tallahassee area, including TPD, FSUPD, FAMU and TCC in regards to race relations.

I. General Counsel

Ms. Carolyn Egan, General Counsel

Ms. Egan provided a brief update regarding the General Counsel's office efforts to assist various departments with their legal and compliance needs. Most recently, assisting Student Affairs with their Title IX changes in effort to be in compliance with new federal mandates. Also, the assistance with the Office of Compliance as they deal with compliance issues in regards to COVID-19 and testing, privacy rules, student privacy and health records.

Additionally, Ms. Egan touched on the progress of state risk management claims and various cases requiring litigation.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Ed Burr, Chair

Chair Burr recognized and thanked former Vice President and FSU Foundation President, Dr. Tom Jennings for his dedicated time at FSU. Dr. Jennings recently joined Washing University in Lexington VA after 10 years at FSU.

Chair Burr reminded the board of discussions early summer regarding the approval of a contract extension for President Thrasher. Due to enormous

challenges recently and recent discussions with President Thrasher and due to the age of COVID-19, he would like to commence the Presidential search process as soon as possible, which will take a special meeting to approve the search committee. This will give FSU a chance to hire the very best successor to President Thrasher, as possible. He commended President Thrasher for his extraordinary job in his six year service at Florida State University bring our rankings from mid-40s to the top 20s. He recognized that President Thrasher's most concerned as he prepares to leave the university is to make sure that the transition is smooth and the university continues to have a chance at success and retain trajectory up. Chair Burr is committed to having President Thrasher at FSU as long as he wants to be here and FSU; therefore, an interim President is not necessary. This will allow an opportunity for the hire of the best president possible and a smooth transition.

President Thrasher commented that its been an invigorating time in his life - he's loved practicing law, serving the legislature and having the opportunity to serve on the FSU Board of Trustees, but being President has been the best job. The past six years have been energizing, rewarding and couldn't ask for more. It's been an honor and privilege for him and Jean to be a part of the University and all the magnificent work, the faculty, staff and students. A lot has been accomplished from raising a billion dollars in the capital campaign to graduating the brightest students in the university history to being recognized as one of the top 20 public universities. President Thrasher closed by saying it is time to begin the search process and for him to look forward to future of spending time with family and perhaps golfing. He looks forward to supporting the board during the search process and the next president for Florida State University.

VIII. OPEN FORUM FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Ed Burr, Chair

Trustee and SGA President, Jonathan Levin, commented that the on-campus COVID-19 testing process for students was seamless and simple.

Additionally, he thanked Chief Terri Brown and FSUPD for their efforts in helping students feel safe within their environment and improve trust and relationships with law enforcement. Conversations and work will continue with FSUPD and TPD to increase the trust in these relationships.\

Chair Burr reminded the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for October 29 & 30, 2020.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.