

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES HYBRID MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021  
1:30 PM  
MEETING MINUTES

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Attendees: Max Alvarez\*, Kathryn Ballard\*, Ed Burr\*, Peter Collins\*, Eric Chicken\*, June Duda\*, Jorge Gonzalez\*, Jim Henderson\*, Jonathan Levin, Craig Mateer, Deborah Sargeant\*, 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 1:30 pm. Lynna Sands conducted the roll call and confirmed a quorum.

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

- February 19, 2021, Board Meeting

The February 19, 2021, General Board Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Prior to hearing the Public Comments, Chair Burr provided a reminder of the Public Comments Policy. Public Comments is a time for comments from those who wish to address trustees about a specific action item on the day's agenda. Comments are limited to three minutes. Members of the public are required to submit an appearance card request, including subject matter, prior to the start of each board meeting.

Public Comments were provided by the following:

Michael Yost, Graduate Assistant – Mr. Yost spoke in opposition of the authorization to expand land acquisition for the construction of the university hotel

Ben Serber, Graduate Assistant – Mr. Serber spoke regarding recent sexual misconduct by an Askew School faculty member and the safety of the faculty, staff and students.

Katie Moore, Graduate Assistant – Ms. Moore spoke in opposition of the removal of the women's studies course.

Lucia Sommer, Citizen – Ms. Sommer spoke against the development of the Convention Center.

Vincenza Antonetta Berardo, Graduate Assistant – Ms. Berardo spoke against the 2021 Accountability Plan and lack of representation of graduate assistants in the plan.

#### **IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Mr. John Thrasher, President*

President Thrasher recognized outgoing SGA President and Trustee, Jonathan Levin, for his service the Board of Trustees and complimented him on how well he represented the student body.

President Thrasher provided a COVID-19 testing and vaccination update for campus. Approximately 11,000 vaccines have been administered.

President Thrasher was excited to announce the in-person commencement will be held on April 17, 18, 23 & 24, which will be 11 different ceremonies. Additionally, special commencement ceremonies for 2020 is being scheduled.

The U.S. News & World Report announced its best graduate school rankings and FSU has more than 30 graduate programs ranked in the Top 25.

Legislative Session began on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and FSU Day at the Capitol was March 31<sup>st</sup>. Our legislative priorities continue to be Pre-eminence funding, national ranking enhancement and funding for the college of business legacy hall.

President Thrasher spoke on the FSU Police Department partnering with local law enforcement agencies to establish a Real-Time Crime Center in Innovation Park. The center will have an in-house learning lab that will allow researchers and students from FSU's College of Criminology and Criminal Justice to provide analysis of crime trends.

FSU is partnering with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital to establish an Academic Medical Center. This new co-branded research/education building on TMH campus to serve as a tangible asset and exemplify a true partnership between FSU and TMH.

Additionally, FSU College of Medicine, Office of Research, Panama City Campus and St. Joe Company are collaborating to establish St. Joe Company's newest community in Panama City Beach Area – Latitude Margaritaville/Watersound.

President Thrasher provided condolences for adored FSU family member, Stella Cottrell, who recently passed away on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

FSU will be hosting Homecoming and Spring Game on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **V. CONSENT ITEMS**

- A.** Requesting Approval for the Campus Master Plan Minor Amendment
- B.** Requesting Approval to amend Regulation FSU-1.004 University Constitution
- C.** Requesting Approval for name changes to College of Human Sciences, Department of Children and Family Science and the Department of Nutrition, Food and Exercise Science
- D.** Requesting Approval to Implement Bachelor of Science in Financial Planning

*Trustee Henderson moved to approve Consent Items A-D. Trustee Thiel seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.*

## VI. NEW BUSINESS AND UPDATES

Coach Amy Bond joined the meeting via ZOOM to provide the Board an update regarding Women's Golf. Some of the highlights she spoke about was Women's Golf being 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country, 100% graduation rate and currently holds a 3.62 GPA.

### A. Faculty Senate Steering Committee

*Dr. Erin Ryan, Vice Chair*

Dr. Ryan provided a Faculty Senate Steering Committee update, which included an approval by the Committee of a resolution about the Presidential Search Committee to expedite the selection and interview process by the deadline to allow participation by the students and faculty members.

Additionally, she reported that in response to the honor code violations, the use of a temporary administrative case resolution process to streamline the resolution of violations without Step 2 hearings. Also, the Senate relaxed a long unenforced requirement for doctoral student remain in full-time status after the completion of their preliminary exams and 24 hours of dissertation credit until their degrees are conferred. The grading options for thesis, treatise and dissertation defenses were revised to communicate faculty assessment more effectively with students.

In February, the Senate approved program name changes. Formally the College of Human Sciences is now the College of Health and Human Sciences and formally, the Department of Nutrition & Integrative Physiology is now the Department of Human Development & Family Science.

Also reported that the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates, composed of the Faculty Senate leadership of all twelve SUS institutions, met in an emergency session to discuss SB 264 and HB 233. These bills have the admirable goals of protecting free speech and encouraging ideological diversity on campus, but they also include a provision that would entitle students to record classroom discussions without the consent of others, and mandate an annual survey by the BOG about the diversity of thought on each campus. At that session, the ACFS unanimously passed a resolution supporting the elements that encourage the free exchange of ideas on campus but opposing the legislative entitlement to record classes and expressing concern about how the survey would be used. On March 12, the FSU Senate joined other faculty senates across the state in support of that resolution, endorsing it with 98% of our own vote.

As faculty applaud these bills' affirmation of free speech and academic discourse and agree that universities must be places where all points of view can be shared. As stated in the resolution, we recommit ourselves to that mission, and we appreciate the interest of the legislature in advancing ideological diversity and academic freedom.

The main concern, by faculty, has been with the provision that would entitle students to record classroom discussions without the consent of others. There are excellent reasons for students and teachers to record classes, but there are also educational contexts in which personal information is shared, or students must engage with sensitive or controversial topics. In these contexts, the faculty believe that the provision threatens to chill speech and undermine student learning,

because nobody will feel comfortable participating in class knowing that someone else may be making a permanent record of their words. These records, especially if taken out of context, may come back to haunt them later when they are seeking employment, or public office, or in other contexts.

The faculty have tried to propose a modest amendment that would retain the bills as written but enable the university to create reasonable exemptions for those educational contexts in which recordings are incompatible. Without a mechanism for exceptions, the fear that the potential for recordings will undermine many educational contexts in which critical student learning takes place, such as clinical programs in the medical, counseling, and legal fields, Socratic and small group discussions, and others in which people disclose private information, discuss politically sensitive topics, play devil's advocate, or experiment with new ideas. have already heard from many guest speakers, especially those in government service, that they will not be able to participate if their comments can be recorded without consent.

**B. Student Government Association**

*Ms. Nastassia Janvier, Vice President of Student Government Association*

Ms. Janvier provided an update on the recent activities of the Student Government including

**C. University Advancement**

*Mr. Andy Jhanji, Interim Vice President for University Advancement*

Interim Vice President Jhanji provided an extensive update regarding year to date gift commitments, the effects of the pandemic on fundraising and endowment updates.

Jhanji highlighted a comparison on endowments with University of Missouri-Columbia, Virginia Tech, University of Georgia, and NC State University.

Direct Support Organization update included the FSU Foundation, FSU Alumni Association. He highlighted FSU's Great Give, fundraiser travel, Alumni membership, and Spring 2021 Alumni Awards.

**Information Item**

1. Mr. Kevin Graham, FSU Real Estate Foundation

Mr. Graham provided an update on the Airport Gateway project including the Phase 1 Schedule, which is proposed to begin January 2021 and complete 2026.

**D. Athletics**

*Mr. David Coburn, Vice President and Director of Athletics*

Mr. Coburn began his Athletic update on the three NCAA issues. A decision is expected in mid-June in the Alston case as the Supreme Court hear oral arguments. Regarding the Name Image and Likeness, we will have an announcement on a partner to provide education and content creation services for our student athletes. Undergraduate transfers will be granted a blanket exemption for one-time transfers this fall. There are approximately 2000 football, 800 women's basketball, and 1200 men's basketball players currently in the portal.

The Spring Football Game is scheduled for April 10 at 5:00 pm and will be televised on ACCN.

Several teams are in the top 4 nationally, including soccer, beach volleyball, men's and women's golf.

FSU College of Medicine graduate and former football player, Dr. Myron Rolle, has been named to Academic All American Hall of Fame. He is currently a Global Neurosurgery Fellow at Harvard Medical School.

Coach Sue Semrau has officially rejoined women's basketball last week. Thankful for Coach Brooke Wycoff for her efforts as the interim head coach this past season.

Dr. Michael Brady, College of Business, was appointed by President Thrasher to serve as the new Faculty representative on the FSU Athletics Association replacing Dr. Pam Perrewe as she retires.

Director of Sports Medicine, Robin Gibson, retired after 33.5 years. Jake Pfeil will be serving as interim director while a search is conducted.

The new ACC Commissioner, Jim Phillips, will be visiting campus on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**E. Legislative Update**

*Mr. Clay Ingram, Chief Legislative Officer*

Mr. Ingram provided an update on legislative session being halfway completed. Some of the challenges are the budget in light of the pandemic and appropriately and effectively communicate with the legislative staff while COVID protocols are in place. He highlighted a few of the bills to follow including SB 220 (Sen. Brandes) and HB 997 (Rep. Garrison) Public Records Exemption related to Presidential Searches - the House Bill is "floor ready" and the Senate Bill is in its final committee of reference. This will require 2/3 votes and would be effective 7/1/2021.

The House Budget is \$570 million/11% reduction to SUS. It will eliminate preeminence and national rankings funding, graduate/professional degree program, national ranking funds for FSU and UF, and reduction for faculty salaries from appropriated funds in non-high demand programs.

The Senate Budget is \$241 million/4.6% reduction, \$560 million for performance funding (maintains the current budget), reduction in faculty salaries in non-high demand programs, \$17 million for Legacy Hall.

FSU Day at the Capitol was virtually and thanks to Seminole Productions & University Communications, there were 196,031 impressions and 8,068 engagements.

**F. Office of Research**

*Dr. Laurel Fulkerson, Interim Vice President for Research*

Dr. Fulkerson shared a report regarding the Research including the FSU Research Funding in comparison to last year. She mentioned the Foreign Influence/Compliance as they continue to work with the General Counsel to hire staff and close security loops, working with investigators to improve communications, internally on strategic plan.

She spoke on Big Bets which is designed to diversify funding streams for university research. Big Bets plan allows for work intensively with a small number of high performing centers to make the case for funding and rethink business, streamline processes in order make things easier for those that think big.

She spotlighted the Institute for Justice Research and Development with the focus on Resiliency behind the Badge program. While working with the Florida Sheriff's Association to help identify and treat post-traumatic stress disorder in frontline law enforcement officials who face stress and trauma and often do not have a coping mechanism to deal with them. This is currently available in 18 states with the goal of expanding and should be available in 25 states by the end of the year.

**G. Academic Affairs Committee**

*Dr. Sally McRorie, Provost*

*Trustee Jim Henderson, Chair*

Chair Henderson provided a summary of the Academic Affairs Committee meeting including the vote taken on consent items.

Provost McRorie updated the Board on Admissions including approximately 18,000+ freshman students admitted with the expectation of 6,400. The average incoming freshman GPA is 4.3, 1328 SAT and 30 ACT.

In-person campus tours have restarted and is an important aspect to incoming students.

She shared the February 18, 2021 Decision Day video as well as a Welcome video to new students.

Kognito training of Student Mental Health Training has been completed by 99% of the FSU faculty and staff. This is intended to train faculty and staff on mental health awareness and suicide prevention of our students.

The student resiliency program launched by the College of Social Work has been requested to be used nationally.

Performance Based Funding Metrics:

- Improved on Three Metrics
  - Percent of Graduates Employed or Enrolled
  - Average Wages of Grads
  - Percent of Graduates taking Entrepreneurship or Innovation Class
- Received Maximum points on two newest metrics
- Met 12 of 12 Metrics
  - High School GPA (4.3)
  - SAT Average (1328)
  - Retention Rate (94%)
  - 4-Year Grad Rate (74%)
  - Sci & Engineering Research Expenditures (\$270M)
  - Patents Issued (128 in 3 years)
  - Post-Doctoral Scholars (254)

College Dean searches are in process or upcoming include:

- College of Nursing
- College of Engineering
- College of Communication & Information

#### **Action Item**

1. Requesting Approval for the 2021 Accountability Plan

*Trustee Duda moved to approve 2021 Accountability Plan. Trustee Chicken seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.*

#### **H. Student Affairs Committee**

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

Vice President Hecht and Asst. Vice President Angela Chong shared detailed information regarding Mental Health on campus. The University Counseling Center, Dr. Carols Gomez, provided a typical timeline of a student being provided care/counseling by the University Counseling Center. Additionally, information was provided on the impact of COVID-19 on students.

#### **I. Finance and Business Committee**

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

Trustee Sasser provided a summary of the Finance & Business Committee. The Committee reviewed and approved items including Champions Hall purchase by the Real Estate Foundation, Pre-Sales related to Athletic Facility Improvements, and the Campus Master Plan.

Mr. Michal Alford, President of Seminole Boosters, provided a presentation to the Board regarding Athletic Facility Improvements that would improve game day experiences. The estimated timeline would be – Presales Begin June/July 2021,

Final Approval Spring/Summer 2022, Construction Begins November 2023, and Construction Ends August 2024.

Vice President Kyle Clark provided a COVID-19 including the Federal Stimulus Summary, expenses, loss of revenue update in relation to FSU. Additionally, he provided COVID-19 Mitigations. Over 11,000 vaccines have been administered by FSU. Students 16 years and older will now be allowed to register for a vaccine.

Vice President Clark reviewed the current budget outlook which includes a 6% holdback per the Governor, initial senate appropriations include a 4.6% reduction for the SUS with the 6% holdback becoming permanent. \$17 million in support of Legacy Hall. Initial House appropriations are projecting an 11% reduction but propose the returning the 6% holdback. No PO&M funding for new buildings and no tuition increases.

**Action Items**

1. Requesting Approval for the Real Estate Foundation to Finance and Purchase Champions Hall up to \$12M

*Trustee Sasser moved to approve the Real Estate Foundation to Finance and Purchase Champions Hall up to \$12M. Trustee Alvarez seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.*

2. Requesting Approval for Pre-Sales related to Athletic Facility Improvements

*Trustee Sasser moved to approve Pre-Sales related to Athletic Facility Improvements. Trustee Alvarez seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.*

**J. General Counsel**

*Ms. Carolyn Egan, General Counsel*

Ms. Egan provided information and processes for a typical case that FSU would be involved in.

**VII. CHAIR'S REPORT**

*Mr. Ed Burr, Chair*

**Information Items**

- A. DSO Trustee Appointments

Chair Burr has appointed the following to serve as liaisons on the following DSO Boards:

- Trustee Jim Henderson – Alumni Association
- Trustee John Thiel – FSU Foundation
- Trustee Peter Collins – Real Estate Foundation

Chair Burr recognized Trustee Collins being inducted to the 2021 College of Business Hall of Fame.



B. Presidential Search Update

Trustee Sasser, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, provided an update on the Presidential Search. The Committee recently met and are proceeding along appropriately. The search firm has placed advertisement and are receiving positive momentum. The search has entered a phase of the process where there will be an extensive amount of activity, but very little will be publicly visible. The search committee has been asked to have confidence and trust in the process and the same has been asked of each member of the Board of Trustees. This is typical for high level recruitments as high priority prospects are usually very sensitive to the risk of public exposure, yet they desire to have a deeper understanding of the issues prior to declaring their candidacy. After successfully converting prospects to candidates, their names and background information will be shared with the committee. We are targeting mid to late April for our next meeting of the selection committee, it will be at this meeting that we may begin to see some applicants. These processes are unpredictable.

Please keep in mind initially the number of applicants will be small, but the number will grow significantly as the search transitions from the recruitment to the assessment base. The strongest candidates often wait until the last minute to submit their materials.

Chair Sasser has asked the search consultants to focus on building a very robust high-quality pool of prospects. During the challenging times and regardless of the timeline, Chair Sasser assures everyone that they will continue to offer both in person and virtual participation in order to maximize the opportunity for all our constituencies to participate in the selection process.

Chair Burr and the Board recognized Trustee Jonathan Levin (SGA President) for his time and contributions to the FSU Board of Trustees.

**VIII. OPEN FORUM FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*Mr. Ed Burr, Chair*

Chair Burr announced the next meeting dates are June 16 & 17, 2021, and would like to have the full board meet in-person.

Additionally, he mentioned the Board could potentially meet sooner if the Search Committee brings forth candidates.

The Fall FSU Board of Trustees Meeting dates were announced as well:  
September 23 & 24, 2021  
November 12, 2021

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm.