

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021
10:45 AM

AUGUSTUS B. TURNBULL, III
FLORIDA STATE CONFERENCE CENTER
555 WEST PENSACOLA STREET ● TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Max Alvarez, Kathryn Ballard, Peter Collins, Eric Chicken, Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz, Jorge Gonzalez, Jim Henderson, Nastassia Janvier, Craig Mateer, Deborah Sargeant, John Thiel and Drew Weatherford.

Absent: Bob Sasser

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mr. Peter Collins, Chair

Chair Collins called the meeting to order at 10:44 am. Lynna Sands conducted the roll call and confirmed a quorum.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)

- August 27, 2021, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Trustee Henderson moved to approve the August 27, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes. Trustee Thiel seconded the motion and approved unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments. Collins read the Ethics Conduct Policy.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Richard McCullough, President

President McCullough welcomed everyone and discussed recent rankings of FSU. He commented on the U.S. News & World Report rankings and TIMES Higher Education Rankings. He emphasized academic reputation and faculty support.

President McCullough congratulated Laura Green, Chief Scientist of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, for her appointment by President Biden. He commented on recent national science grants awarded to the MagLab, the College of Nursing, and the College of Medicine.

President McCullough provided a report on COVID-19 and total active cases. He reported that the positivity rates have both declined significantly.

President McCullough reported that a tentative agreement with faculty union was reached.

President McCullough discussed the women's soccer team, its continuing rank as number one in the country, and its ability to exemplify the best of FSU.

President McCullough thanked the board for support during his transition to presidency. Chairman Collins thanked him for his efforts regarding COVID-19 safety among students.

V. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Requesting Approval of the Textbook and Instructional Material Affordability Report
- B. Requesting Approval of Office of Compliance and Ethics Charter
- C. Requesting Approval of Office of Inspector General Services 2021-2022 Annual Work Plan
- D. Requesting Approval of Revision to FSU Regulation 2.025 – Direct Support Organizations
- E. Requesting Approval of the 2021-2022 Carryforward Spending Plan
- F. Requesting of the 2021-2022 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget
- G. Requesting Approval of the Status Report on Purchase Orders over 1.0 million and 5+ Year Service Contracts
- H. Requesting Approval of Florida State University Bonus Plan
- I. Requesting Approval to Hire Populous for the Architectural and Engineering Services for the Football Training Facility
- J. Requesting Approval to Regulation FSU 3.004 – Student Conduct Code
- K. Requesting Approval to Regulation FSU 3.0041 – Student Organization Conduct Code
- L. Requesting Approval to Revise Performance Based Funding Metric 10
- M. Request Approval of Appointments to Direct Support Organization Boards

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS AND UPDATES

A. University Advancement

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

Trustee Mateer reported on the inaugural meeting for the University Advancement Committee, which included presentations provided by Michael Alford, Seminole Boosters,

Julie Decker, Alumni Association, Kevin Graham, Real Estate Foundation and Andy Jhanji, FSU Foundation.

Mr. Jhanji thanked Trustees Ballard, Weatherford, and Janvier. He discussed an upcoming campaign. He welcomed in each speaker, describing their educational and professional experiences.

Information Item

1. Alumni Association Update

Mr. Scott Wiegand, Chair, Alumni Association Board of Directors

Mr. Wiegand gave background information regarding the Alumni Association, including its goals, staff, and areas of pride and concern. Areas of pride included increased revenue, strong engagement levels, and strong levels of commitment. Areas of concern included an increasingly young alumni base, limitations due to COVID-19, and staff to alumni ratios.

2. Seminole Boosters Update

Mr. Jimmy Graganella, Chair, Seminole Boosters Board of Directors

Mr. Graganella stated that the Boosters have added a new part to the mission statement. He discussed rising membership levels, as well as increased funding. He stated that their biggest challenge is name, image, likeness.

Mr. Graganella discussed plans to build a new football facility, stating that the current facility is outdated by the standards of our peer institutions. He said that the Boosters will be meeting with the city commission soon to try to get a grant to improve the stadium.

Mr. Graganella stated that past social media efforts have proven not to be enough. The Boosters plan to increase usage in order to improve relationships with younger audiences.

3. FSU Foundation Update

Ms. Nancy McKay, Chair, FSU Foundation Board of Trustees

Ms. McKay discussed Foundation objectives and major focuses. She described the makeup of the Board, as well as the frequency of its meetings. She discussed statistics relating to the monetary contributions and return on investments made by the Foundation.

Ms. McKay emphasized one of the major goals of the Foundation being the creation of an environment that promotes philanthropy. She described the importance of giving and how that relates to FSU's successes.

Ms. McKay stated that a consulting firm would be speaking with the DSOs on ways to better invest funds. She discussed the importance of technology and the role it plays in many financial processes.

4. Real Estate Foundation Update

Mr. Doug Rillstone, Vice Chair, Real Estate Foundation

Mr. Rillstone provided background information on the Real Estate Foundation. He discussed recent strategic wins. One recent property swap meant FSU gaining significant office space in exchange for several unused plots of land.

Chairman Collins emphasized the importance of expanded, as FSU is currently surrounded by occupied land.

B. Faculty Senate Steering Committee

Dr. Erin Ryan, Vice Chair

Dr. Ryan described recent hardships from the perspective of faculty. Faculty have had a negative reaction to the anti-mask mandate imposed by legislation. She stated that the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates unanimously called for a repeal.

Dr. Ryan described the emotions faculty have been expressing lately, namely that faculty is disposable, and that the safety of their families is not valued. She stated that faculty would likely be enticed elsewhere if conditions do not improve. State legislation pledged to work with them on these concerns.

Among faculty concerns is academic freedom. The Faculty Senate considers it important for faculty to be able to express their perspectives freely. Dr. Ryan stated that professors felt as if they were under attack.

Trustee Chicken expressed his experience with faculty concerns had been very similar to that of Dr. Ryan. He stated that without making improvement in this area, FSU will struggle to hire the best candidates.

Trustee Cuevas-Diaz asked whether the anti-mask mandate was the underlining issue.

Dr. Ryan and Trustee Chicken replied that academic freedom was among the underlining problems. Dr. Ryan added that administration has worked to the maximum with the current autonomy regarding mask wearing. She stated that faculty frustration lied mainly with legislation. She urged the trustees to use their voices to communicate these concerns to legislation.

President McCullough addressed academic freedom concerns and the importance of open dialogue between faculty and administration.

C. Student Government Association

Ms. Colbi Thykadavil, Student Body Vice President

Ms. Thykadavil described recent events with the goal of welcoming students. She stated that turnout has been great, and the events have been viewed as successful.

Ms. Thykadavil discussed block seating and recent controversies surrounding it.

Chairman Collins responded to the block seating controversies and expressed that he felt there was nothing inherently wrong with it.

Ms. Thykadavil described the need for a unified message addressing the underlying causes of the events that took place.

Trustee Janvier expressed appreciation for Ms. Thykadavil and Mr. Khaleel Gray. She discussed her concerns with university culture and how that pertains to block seating. She described a need to integrate ideas of how to build community, not just virtually, but on campus, as well as a need to address unconscious bias and implement DEI training across all levels.

D. Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. Joe O'Shea, Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Ms. Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz, Chair

Trustee Cuevas-Diaz provided a report on the Academic Affairs Committee meeting. She commended the libraries for their effort on the Textbook and Instructional Material Affordability Report. She described recent changes made by the Florida Board of Governors. She discussed graduate admissions and other successes.

Dr. O'Shea spoke on behalf of Dr. McRorie. He reported on rankings of individual programs, colleges, and schools. He described the successes of admissions and enrollment despite the hardships of COVID-19. He emphasized the need to provide mentorship for students.

Dr. O'Shea congratulated six faculty named as McKnight Junior Faculty Fellowships and three students selected for federally funded Fulbright Awards.

Information Item

1. College of Fine Arts

Dr. James Frazier, Dean

Dr. Frazier provided information regarding the College of Fine Arts and discussed his background and experience at FSU.

Dr. Frazier celebrated several faculty members, including Dave Gussak, Holly Hennessean, Jill Pable, Carolyn Henning, Willa Zollar, and Lilian Garcia-Roig. He shared a video about the college, showcasing its strengths.

E. Student Affairs Committee

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

Trustee Thiel provided a report on the Student Affairs Committee meeting and their visit to the Career Center.

Information Item

1. Food Pantry Update

Dr. Hecht discussed rates of food insecurity among students and how this can lead to lower GPAs, lower sleep quality, higher stress, and disordered eating behaviors. She shared a video regarding the food pantry.

Dr. Hecht introduced and congratulated Haley Gentile, one of the case managers at the Food Pantry. Ms. Gentile secured partnerships with Second Harvest of Big Bend and with local farmers.

Dr. Hecht described areas of improvement for the Food Pantry. These included a need for a more centralized space for pantry, expanded staffing, increased physical capacity, and partnerships with donors or corporate sponsors.

F. Audit and Compliance Committee

Dr. Sam McCall, Chief Audit Officer
Ms. Robyn Blank, Chief Compliance Officer
Mr. Max Alvarez, Chair

Chair Collins congratulated and thanked Dr. McCall for his service and announced his retirement.

Trustee Alvarez provided a brief update on the Audit and Compliance Committee meeting.

Information Item

1. Update on Office of Compliance and Ethics 2020-2021 Annual Report and 2021-2022 Work Plan

Dr. McCall report on Florida Board of Governors regulation requiring Boards of Trustees to establish themselves on the topic of fraud. He described his proposed notice.

Action Item

1. Requesting Approval to Notice FSU Regulation 2.027 to Implement FLBOG Regulation 3.003 – Fraud Prevention

Trustee Thiel moved to approve to Notice FSU Regulation 2.027 to Implement FLOBG Regulation 3.003 – Fraud Prevention. Trustee Gonzalez seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

G. Athletics

Mr. David Coburn, Vice President and Director of Athletics

Information Item

1. Women’s Softball

Ms. Lonni Alameda, Head Coach

Coach Alameda described the recent success and culture of the FSU Women’s Softball team.

Mr. Coburn reported statistics and rankings of athletic programs. He addressed recent stadium issues regarding staffing.

Mr. Coburn discussed block seating, describing their goal of reinstating it before Homecoming. He discussed ways the program will ensure that block seating goes more smoothly, including working with Chief Malloy, ensuring adequate security presence, and clearer delineation of tickets.

Mr. Coburn reported that the NCAA is going through a constitutional rewrite effort.

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Action Item

1. Requesting Approval of the 2021-2022 ACC Governing Board Certification

Trustee Weatherford moved to approve the 2021-2022 ACC Governing Board Certification. Trustee Mateer seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

H. Legislative Update

Mr. Clay Ingram, Chief Legislative Officer

Mr. Ingram reported on legislative session and Florida revenue. He emphasized the need to tell success stories to legislators when they are hosted on campus.

Chair Collins requested that the Seminole Caucus contact information be provided to the Trustees.

I. Finance and Business Committee

Mr. Kyle Clark, Vice President for Finance & Administration

Mr. Jim Henderson, Chair

Mr. Henderson provided a brief report on the meeting of the Finance & Business Committee.

Vice President Clark reminded the Board of the previous presentation of the Campus Master Plan. He stated that public comments were addressed in the Finance & Business Committee. He reported that the plan provides for future growth and encompasses the Tallahassee and Panama City campuses.

Action Item

1. Requesting Approval of the Campus Master Plan

Trustee Thiel moved to approve the Campus Master Plan. Trustee Alvarez seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

Mr. Clark presented a new COVID-19 dashboard for the campus community based on feedback from Dr. Chicken. He provided information on vaccinations, pop-up clinics, a future full-time vaccine clinic, and a campaign designed to incentivize faculty and students to get vaccinated.

Mr. Clark reported on the AFSCME Supplemental Agreement.

J. Office of Research

Dr. Laurel Fulkerson, Interim Vice President for Research

Chairman Collins commended Trustee Gonzalez for his participation with the Research Committee. Trustee Gonzalez spoke on the importance of research and strategic planning.

Dr. Fulkerson provided more information on cancer research. Numbers of proposals, awards, and research dollars are up in almost every way possible.

Dr. Fulkerson described Office of Research Development and its missions. Demand for services continue to increase.

Dr. Fulkerson described Collaborative Collision; a project designed to help researchers build teams. The project incentivizes teams that are formed by its events.

Dr. Fulkerson talked about Office of Commercialization and its goal to generate enough revenue to be able to support itself. The Office seeks to increase patents and drive commercialization. Success would lead to internships for students and employment opportunities for graduates.

Information Item

1. Rapid Response Lab and Genome Sequencing

Dr. Jonathan H. Dennis, Pfeiffer Endowed Professorship for Cancer Research

Dr. Fulkerson introduced Dr. Dennis. Dr. Dennis described a COVID-19 testing method that avoids supply chain issues by purchasing ingredients separately rather than pre-mixed.

Dr. Dennis reported that the lab has developed a strong relationship with TMH. He discussed favorable statistics showing the lab's success. He stated that all costs are recovered by the agreement made with TMH or by CARES funding.

Dr. Dennis reported on variant typing protocol. The lab developed one of the top contributing variant tracking protocols in the nation.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Peter Collins, Chair

Information Item

A. Governance Committee Update

Chair Collins reported on the Governance Committee meeting.

Action Item

A. FSU Board of Trustees Committee Assignments

Trustee Henderson moved to approve the FSU Board of Trustees Committee Assignments. Trustee Cuevas-Diaz seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

B. President John Thrasher's Final Performance Evaluation

Trustee Alvarez moved to approve President John Thrasher's Final Performance Evaluation. Trustee Thiel seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

C. Amendment to FSU Board of Trustees Operating Procedures

Ms. Carolyn Egan, General Counsel

Ms. Egan discussed the changes made to Board of Trustees Operating Procedures, citing the previous operating procedures were antiquated.

Trustee Mateer moved to approve the revised FSU Board of Trustees Operating Procedures. Trustee Cuevas-Diaz seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

VII. OPEN FORUM FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair Collins commented on the committee meetings and the importance of experiencing the campus. He reminded the trustees of the November 12th, Board Meeting. Committee Meetings should be held prior to November 12th. He thanked staff for the hours put into making meetings run smoothly.

President McCullough thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication, specifically giving praise to Amy Hecht, Clay Ingram, and Kyle Clark.

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.