Attending Trustees: Bob Sasser, Peter Collins, John Thiel, Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz
Staff: Carolyn Egan, Angela Chong, Jennifer Buchanan, Ruth Storm, President Richard McCullough and other members of University staff

Committee Chair Sasser called the meeting to order at 2:22 p.m., noted that all members were present and confirmed that a quorum was present.

1. Approval of August 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes
   The minutes from the August 24, 2022 Governance Committee meeting were approved as presented.

2. Request for Approval of the President’s 2022-2023 Goals (Action Item) -- Board Chair Collins
   Board Chair Collins indicated that President Richard McCullough had drafted goals for 2022-2023, which were distributed to the Committee members. Board Chair Collins noted that the President had modified a few goals from the previous year and one goal (related to being the most efficient university) was removed as being somewhat in conflict with others. The goals were reviewed and discussed. The Committee discussed revising the mechanism used last year for the President’s evaluation, including how to improve the means for providing the President with meaningful feedback. President McCullough stated that he prefers comments to numerical scoring and would also find oral feedback helpful. The Committee will continue this discussion at the next Committee meeting. Board Chair Collins made a motion to approve the goals and recommend approval by the full Board and Trustee Thiel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Board of Governor's Civil Discourse Initiative:
   a. Student Affairs update – Angela Chong, Associate Vice President, Division of Student Affairs
   b. Academic Affairs update – Dr. Jennifer Buchanan, Associate Vice President, Faculty Development and Advancement
   Carolyn Egan, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, noted that at the September 2022 Board meeting, FSU’s plan to respond to the Board of Governors’ Civil Discourse Initiative was approved by the Board of Trustees. Updates were provided for informational purposes. The Office of Human Resources is in the process of reviewing its regulations and policies and will report at a future Committee meeting.

   Angela Chong gave an update on the activities of Student Affairs. A copy of the Student Senate’s Resolution endorsing the Board of Governors’ Statement of Free Expression and the Civil Discourse Initiative was distributed. Student Affairs continues to review and update its regulations and policies, including FSU’s Student Conduct Code, to ensure compliance with free speech and civil discourse. Those efforts over the years have resulted in a green light from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) and a free speech ranking for FSU of 15 out of 203 institutions. Ms. Chong described the robust changes made to New Student Orientation and Pre-Orientation for Fall 2022 to emphasize civil discourse. Student Affairs’ next step will be to comb
through all orientation content to ensure that civil discourse concepts are appropriately embedded. Ms. Chong stated that she would send the Committee members a link to the Pre-Orientation module.

Dr. Jennifer Buchanan gave an update on the activities of Faculty Development & Advancement related to civil discourse. She noted FSU’s long-standing and comprehensive references to academic freedom and civil discourse in faculty documents such as the Faculty Handbook and Collective Bargaining Agreement. The Academic Honor Policy has recently been updated and approved by the Board, built on the idea of “responsible freedom.” Nonetheless, a comprehensive review is underway to identify areas that could be modified to further emphasis civil discourse. New Faculty Orientation was mentioned as one such potential area. Dr. Buchanan indicated that the Faculty Senate was scheduled to take up the issue of endorsing the Board of Governors’ Statement of Free Expression at its November 16, 2022 meeting, but the matter had to be postponed due to extensive discussion of other time-sensitive matters. The matter is scheduled to be taken up by the Faculty Senate at its November 30, 2022 meeting.

There was discussion about when a faculty member does not abide by the civil discourse principles. Ms. Egan stated that, while such incidents are uncommon, they do occasionally arise and are promptly handled by the University. President McCullough noted that he is keeping a close eye on the issue and any incidents will be addressed. It was also discussed that sometimes students are the ones shutting down unpopular speech. It was noted that harassment and discrimination are not protected speech and could be actionable under the Student Conduct Code or otherwise addressed via conflict resolution or coaching/education. During the discussion, the University’s anonymous on-line reporting system at https://report.fsu.edu was emphasized as a tool for reporting any such allegations against a professor or student.

Ms. Egan concluded the update by indicating that FSU will be giving periodic updates to the Board of Governors regarding the University’s progress.

4. Reaccreditation update – Dr. Ruth Storm, Associate Provost
Dr. Ruth Storm gave an update on the University’s reaccreditation process with the Southern Association of College and Schools (SACS). University personnel are in the midst of writing the various pieces of the reaffirmation report, which is due in September 2023. By the end of the year, there will be solid drafts of nearly 124 standards. The report will be reviewed in November 2023. Site visits will occur in March 2024. Board members could be interviewed as part of a site visit. Dr. Storm introduced Dr. Sara Hamon, who will be assisting with the reaccreditation efforts. Dr. Storm also noted that the Board of Governors has approved five accreditors plus SACS. Two of the new ones appear to be a good fit and Dr. Storm is learning more about the potential options for the next accreditation cycle, in order to be in compliance with the legislation requiring institutions to pursue other accreditors.

5. Risk Management update
Committee Chair Sasser stated that FSU needs a centralized and overarching risk management process. He would like to see an audit plan tied to risk assessment. FSU’s Chief Audit Officer is working on this issue as well. President McCullough stated that by the next Board meeting, he will have in place a University risk management committee that is operational.

6. Adjournment
The Committee adjourned at 3:32 p.m.