

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES HYBRID MEETING
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 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, Bob Sasser*, and John Thiel*

Absent: Brent Sembler

*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)

- September 11, 2020, Board Meeting

The September 11, 2020, General Board Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments were provided regarding GAU, Transgender Inclusivity Housing Policy and the president's bonus.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. John Thrasher, President

President Thrasher provided remarks regarding recent personnel changes. He recognized Kathleen Daly, Paula Moyer, Browning Brooks and Gary Ostrander for their dedication and hard work with the Florida State University. Additional personnel changes include Liz Lovell will oversee University Relations, Laurel Fulkerson, Interim Vice President of Research, Dennis Schnittker, Interim Vice President of University Communication and Clay Ingram, Chief Legislative Officer.

President commented on the U.S. News & World Report rankings and the return of freshman students at the rate of 95 percent placing FSU in the Top 15 public universities in the nation.

A COVID-19 update in regards to campus was provided. Additionally, FSU hosted Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the CDC, for a campus roundtable discussion.

Planning for the spring semester is underway with changes. Spring Break has been canceled to limit the return to campus following traveling out of town. Classes will end April 23rd and graduation will be held that weekend.

Legislative Session will begin meeting in the spring with priorities continuing to be pre-eminence funding and national ranking enhancement,

The Institute on Politics, with funding provided by the Florida legislature, and housed within College of Social Sciences and Public Policy was recently launched. Excited the role it will play in improving the lives of Americans and encourage civic engagement.

V. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Requesting Approval for Revision of Alumni Association Bylaws
- B. Request Approval to Implement Master's in Interdisciplinary Data Science
- C. Request Approval to Implement Master's in Athletic Coaching
- D. Request Approval of FSU College of Medicine Graduate Medical Education Annual Institutional Review Executive Summary (AY 2019-20)
- E. Requesting Approval for Renewal of the Audit Contract for 5 years with HBK CPAs and Consultants for The Ringling Museum Foundation
- F. Requesting Approval for Campus Development Agreement
- G. Requesting Approval of Status Report on Construction Projects over \$2.0 million and Change Orders
- H. Requesting Approval for Amendment of FSU Regulation FSU 2.0249 – Installment Tuition and Fee Contracts
- I. Requesting Approval for Amendment of FSU Regulation 2.02422 – Special Fines, Fees and Penalties
- J. Requesting Approval for Amendment of FSU Regulation 2.02414 – Fee Waivers (to be renamed Waivers and Exemptions of Tuition and Fees)

Trustee Duda moved to approve Consent Items A-J. 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

Trustee Henderson, Chair, Academic Affairs Committee provided a summary of the Committee meeting. Jennifer Buchanan provided updates regarding programs and John Leak provided an update on the College of Medicine graduate medicine program.

Provost McRorie began her report by highlighting our record 95% retention rate and emphasizing that we have attained parity across all racial and ethnic groups on that measure. She provided more details on our *U.S. News* rankings by showing that we improved or retained our ranks on 12 of 15 measures. She briefly noted two new Performance Based Funding metrics and indicated that we were adding a footnote to some of the Strategic Plan metrics to indicate that

they were adversely affected by Covid-19. Freshman applications for Fall 2021 are still considerably behind our record applications of the past couple years. She still anticipates the Fall class will be comparable to prior years. Graduate admissions continue to set records and we expect to see record enrollment for the fourth straight year. Dr. Ami Ai and Dr. Daniel Mears were both recognized for recent awards and Provost McRorie provided data showing that the percentage of our faculty who were ranked in the top 20% of their disciplines was among the best in the nation. She reinforced how productive and resilient our faculty have been and then introduced a video named “Resilient FSU.”

Information Item

1. Innovation Hub Update

Dr. Issy Masduki, Assistant Director, Education

Dr. Masduki highlighted the activities and workshops available at the Innovation Hub. She introduced Upskill digital badges that can be earned by students. Designing Your Life class allows student to explore and design their future. Additionally, they offer Innovation Scholar Program that encourages deliberate student engagement with innovative activities on and off campus. Workshops & Online Learning include making 3D cards, fun projects to engage interest in learning technology skills and encourages peer to peer teaching/mentoring.

Action Item

1. Requesting Approval of Name Change – Dedman School of Hospitality to Dedman College of Hospitality

Trustee Henderson moved to approve the Name Change – Dedman School of Hospitality to Dedman College of Hospitality. Trustee Chicken seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

Dean Don Farr expressed his appreciation to the board for their approval of the name change.

B. Student Affairs Committee

Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs

Mr. John Thiel, Chair

Trustee Thiel, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, recognized what happening to adjust and adopt to fulfill the students’ lives outside of the classroom. He shared that he was particularly grateful the efforts of Dr. Hecht and her staff during the pandemic.

Dr. Hecht provided an update to the board including the with the virtual platform, students are able to participate in everything from mental health counseling to organization meetings lectures activities and it's really helped us maintain connections with our students throughout the pandemic. The Chronicle of Higher Education highlighted FSU was one of the first to transition to a student life to a virtual platform. Additionally,

she shared a video of the Stay Healthy Ambassadors and their efforts on campus to encourage COVID safety.

C. Finance and Business Committee

Mr. Kyle Clark, Vice President for Finance & Administration

Mr. Bob Sasser, Chair

Trustee Sasser provided an extensive summary of the Finance & Business Committee meeting including the presentation and approval of consent items, regulation amendments. Additionally, a review of the financial projections related to the pandemic were discussed.

Vice President Clark began his update with COVID-19 Financial Impacts on the university budget. Revenue and financial losses have been offset by expenditure reductions, hiring freeze, furloughs, staff reductions, delaying capital projects, adjusting business practices and priorities, reserves.

A COVID-19 update was provided as it relates to the University. Individuals continue to test in Tallahassee, Panama City and Sarasota. Tallahassee testing capacity of 1,200 per day at the Tucker Center. FSU continues to work closely with the Department of Health, Florida Board of Governors, and other SUS institutions. Continue to encourage the campus community to utilize flu shot clinics. Develop vaccination plans for the community.

Testing by the numbers

-40,593 total tests

32,683 tests for students

6,812 tests for athletes

7,734 tests for employees

176 other individuals

1,715 positive cases

1,654 close contacts quarantined

Vice President Clark provided a Finance & Administration update, which included Information Technology Services, Police Department, Emergency Management, Transportation & Parking Services, Campus Access & Security Services, Facilities, and Human Resources.

Additionally, he updated the trustees on the food service contract. Sodexo's contract will be terminated December 2020. A review of a new service contract provider is underway and expected to have a new one picked for January 2021.

He presented a list of Finance & Administration goals for 2021-2022 and discussed the status of construction projects on campus including the Student Union Replacement. Unforeseen conditions and cost increases have affected the timeline of the project. Additional projects under construction is the Hoffman Teaching Lab, Bio Unit 1 Third Floor

Renovation, CAPS High Bay Phase 1 and Improvements, Florida State University School STEAM Classroom Building and Auditorium, and Bayside Residence Hall at FSU Panama City.

D. Office of Research

Dr. Gary Ostrander, Vice President for Research

Dr. Ostrander began by reviewing the research numbers to include proposals, awards and funding through the first 4 months of the fiscal year. The number of proposals leaving the university and the number of awards is remaining relatively stable. The total dollars awarded to date lags about \$6M behind last year's record funding. However, at the time he prepared his presentation other significant awards were being processed. There is typically high variability in the numbers this early in the fiscal year. While Dr. Ostrander could not guarantee another record year, he remains confident that this will be a good year.

He continued with an update on the FSU plans for clean-up of two long-dormant low-level radioactive waste storage sites. Appropriate expertise is in place and the effort is proceeding as expected.

A recent award to Dr. Fang Peng in the Center for Advanced Power Systems (CAPS) was described to the BOT. The award is for \$3.8M from the Department of Energy and involves, in the most general terms, power grid stability. The city of Tallahassee is a partner and this provides another example of FSU research having an immediate impact in our community.

Finally, Dr. Ostrander concluded with a quick overview of the national and international attention all aspects/types of FSU research has attracted in the press during 2020. Whether it be COVID, racial injustice, hurricanes, or the election—FSU researchers were called to comment based on their research efforts. Of perhaps greater significance is that editors of papers and magazines around the world had decided that their readership needed to hear what FSU faculty were thinking.

E. University Advancement

Mr. Andy Jhanji, Interim Vice President for University Advancement

Interim Vice President Andy Jhanji provided a report on University Advancement leading with 2021 total gift commitments for each DSO totaling \$43,094,165. Additionally, he reviewed the total commitments of \$133 million for student success initiatives.

The FSU Real Estate Foundation continues to plan and coordinate the hotel and convention center and assisting the university with multiple real estate projects and they are pursuing the acquisition of Champions Hall for Seminole Boosters.

The FSU Foundation major gifts are up by \$6 million from the previous two years, which include major gifts from Gail and Bob Knight and gifts for Legacy Hall and PC Promise Scholarships. The President's Club College offering virtual experience with classes taught by faculty. A reminder of Giving Tuesday is December 1st with highlighted giving opportunities provided.

The FSU Alumni Association have continued with virtual events including Webinar Wednesday featuring FSU Institute on Politics, Notable Noles, and Alumni Awards Gala.

F. Athletics

Mr. David Coburn, Athletics Director

Mr. Coburn provided an update on NCAA issues including the antitrust issue in California, name image and likeness and athlete transfers.

Additionally, he reviewed the \$20 million operating budget reductions from the summer. Due to COVID costs, the budget is still in the red with the reduction in ticket sales, decrease in booster's annual fund and membership. At this point, sports budgets have not been affected, but could be affected in the future.

He provided an update regarding cross country, volleyball, football, and basketball.

Mr. Michael Alford, Seminole Boosters' President, discussed the launch of the Unconquered Campaign, which will separate the annual fund from ticket sales. Additionally, the campaign will personalize the stories of 556 student athletes.

G. Faculty Senate Steering Committee

Dr. Erin Ryan, Vice Chair

Dr. Ryan provided a brief update regarding the meeting of the Faculty Senate. The Senate has meet regarding the final phase of amending the Faculty Senate Constitution, name change for the Dedman School of Hospitality, ad hoc committees were created to support sustainability efforts of FSU and SGA. Additionally, faculty senate advisory council recently met with FLBOG Chancellor Marshal Criser to share the faculty perspective on the pandemic.

H. Student Government Association

Ms. Nastassia Janvier, Vice President of Student Government Association

Ms. Janvier provide a Student Government update of the many events hosted by SGA including the march to the polls, fallen heros ceremony, engaging with the student leader at Panama City Campus, and initiatives with Campus Safety.

I. General Counsel

Ms. Carolyn Egan, General Counsel

Ms. Egan expressed that the General Counsel's office assist with the background for much of the work and reports provided by the vice presidents. Due to COVID and in an effort to make sure each one is aware of the other's cases, we provide a summary. Luciana Hornig, immigration attorney, continues tracking the immigration laws, which affect our scholars and other employees that are permitted to stay in the US and perform work. Kyle Griffith, Student Affairs lawyer, has been tested in the past year regarding exceedingly large volume of conduct and honor code cases, Title XI policy revisions, court appeals and contract cases.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Ed Burr, Chair

- A. 2019-2020 President's Evaluation
- B. Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation
- C. Presidential Search Committee Update

Trustee Buzzett, Chair of the Governance Committee and Presidential Search Committee, provided an update regarding both Committees. First he spoke on the trustee self-evaluations required for accreditation process. The self-evaluation are on a two-year cycle; therefore, expect notification in the near future for the evaluations.

Secondly, he provided an update regarding the Presidential Search Committee. At the previous Trustee meeting, the Chairman appointed a 15-member committee. The Search Committee recently met to interview and review four of the 10 search firms that responded to the RFQ. The Committee voted to secure Storbeck Pimentel who was involved in the last search for President,

Chair Burr indicated that the President's six-year contract just ended at the end of the month and he is committed to staying through the transition of the new president knowing there is no timeframe. President Thrasher will continue to serve at the same capacity and salary that he's been service. The trustees all submitted an evaluation on the President. Of 192 potential rating categories, President Thrasher was rated at 190. Chair Burr recommended and the Governance Committee approved a \$350,000 bonus.

Trustee Alvarez moved to approve a \$350,000 bonus for President John Thrasher. Trustee Duda seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

VIII. OPEN FORUM FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Ed Burr, Chair

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.