

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES HYBRID MEETING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021
8:30 AM
MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Max Alvarez*, Kathryn Ballard*, Ed Burr, Peter Collins, Eric Chicken*, Jorge Gonzalez, Jim Henderson*, Jonathan Levin, Craig Mateer*, Deborah Sargeant, Bob Sasser*, and John Thiel*

Absent: June Duda

*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.

Chair Burr recognized former trustees Brent Sembler and Billy Buzzett for serving on the FSU Board of Trustees.

Vice President Laurel Fulkerson presented former trustee Billy Buzzett and Trustee Jorge Gonzalez with the Office of Research Community Partners Awards for their efforts of securing funds from the Triumph Gulf Coast for Apalachee Bay oyster recovery study.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)

- November 20, 2020, Board Meeting

The November 20, 2020, General Board Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments were provided Mr. Thomas Kelly regarding the removal of the College of Law building name B.K. Roberts.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. John Thrasher, President

President Thrasher welcomed Trustees Peter Collins and Deborah Sargeant. He updated the Board on the COVID-19 testing and vaccinations available on campus. Vaccinations are currently available to faculty, staff and students over 65 years of age. Testing and vaccinations have been quite an undertaking by the University Health Services, College of Medicine and College of Nursing. COVID positivity rate is below 2% on campus.

President Thrasher touched on spring commencement with the hope of providing in-person ceremonies for the students.

Florida State University has the best four-year graduation rate of any public university in Florida with 74% of students graduating in four years. This is a new record for FSU and the SUS. It also places FSU in the top 10 public university in the country.

President Thrasher spoke about FSU being the top producer of faculty earning prestigious Fulbright awards. FSU was named 4th among the nation's doctoral institutions with 10 faculty members receiving Fulbright to teach or conduct research abroad during 2020-2021 academic year.

Legislative Session will begin March 2nd with an expected economic impact due to COVID-19 and declining revenues. We remain cautiously optimistic the Legislature will continue to invest in the State University System and FSU. President Thrasher introduced Mr. Clay Ingram, our new Chief Legislative Affairs Officer.

He ended his comments with the tragic loss of FSU Alum and FBI Special Agent Daniel Alfin that was killed in the line of duty on February 2nd. Also, the upcoming jersey retirement ceremony for Coach Mike Martin - #11 at Saturday's baseball game.

V. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Requesting Approval for Amendment to FSU Regulation 2.0249 – Installment Tuition and Fee Contracts
- B. Requesting Approval for Amendment of FSU Regulation 2.02422 – Special Fines, Fees and Penalties
- C. Requesting Approval for 2020-2021 Budget Projections for Auxiliaries with Outstanding Revenue Bonds
- D. Requesting Approval of Revision to FSU Regulation 2.025 – Direct Support Organizations

Trustee Sasser moved to approve Consent Items A-D. Trustee Collins 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. The Committee was updated on the University's Strategic Plan, Vice President Janet Kistner provided faculty Promotion and Tenure information for 2020-2021, Dr. Gale Etschmaier, FSU Libraries, updated the members on how FSU Libraries is a relevant space for students and faculty – especially during the pandemic.

Dr. Joe O'Shea, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, provided the university's "6 Pillars of Student Success." Finally, DeOnite Brown, newly appointed Assistant Dean and Director of the CARE program, provided statistics of performance for this program.

Academic Affairs Update

Dr. Sally McRorie, Provost

Provost McRorie provided an update on the record number of undergraduate applications – over 62,574 applications (1.7% increase from last year) were received. Also, a record number of graduate applications were received as well.

FSU has the best 4-year graduation rate in Florida – improving 13 percentage points over the last six years.

Several FSU Online Programs are ranked including:

- College of Education MS in Curriculum and Instruction ranked #4 in the nation
- Master of Science in Information Technology ranked #5 and #2 among public universities
- College of Business Graduate Programs in Management Information Systems Risk Management and Insurance ranked #13 and #9
- Master's in Criminal Justice ranked #8 and #6 among public universities

FSU top faculty include Tamara Betrand Jones received the 2020 President's Medal from ASHE, highly cited researchers in the world, Max Gunzberger, Shantel Buggs, Woodrow Wilson Career Advancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty.

Information Item

1. Dean Tim Chapin, College of Social Sciences & Public Policy (COSSPP)

Dean Chapin provided information regarding the Institute of Politics that was recently launched in 2020 with funding from the Florida Legislature with the support of Governor Ron DeSantis. It is a world-class, non-partisan institute with a core mission of promoting civil and civic engagement among student and citizens.

He also provided information on the Master of Public Health and Bachelor of Science in Public Health Programs. The Center for Education in Public Health was created 10+ years ago. The BSPH launched last year and already has over 350 majors. The programs teach foundations of epidemiology, socioeconomic determinants of health, community health, spatial analytic techniques, and policy health responses. The COSSPP has also partnered with FSU Panama City to establish a new program on its campus starting Fall 2021.

The COSSPP is integral part of FSU's 4-year graduation rate metric, most diverse college in terms of our gender, race, ethnicity, and political mixes. COSSPP sends the highest percentage of its students to study abroad and engage the world.

Trustee Collins commended the Institute (on Politics) for its promotion of healthy debate. He asked that they continue to foster healthy debate/discussions and remove those elements to stifle the debate. Debate and discussions are needed at the university level.

B. Student Affairs Committee

Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs

Mr. John Thiel, Chair

Trustee Thiel, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, briefed the trustees on the Student Affairs Committee. Vice President Hecht shared with the Committee the impacts of COVID has had on campus. A pro-active mindset improving communication, collaboration, renewed purpose, innovation, resiliency, and adaptation to keep the student experience as normal as possible.

Dr. Hecht echoed Thiel's summary and commented that fundraising for student aid has reached an all-time high at \$1.2 million.

Carryforward funds were used to pay full childcare tuition for each student family for Fall 2020.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida will provide tapestry and other museum pieces on loan from Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum or FSU's collection for the new student union. Goal is to educate on the history of the Seminole Tribe and their relationship with FSU.

The Interfraternity Council will expand fraternities with six new organizations by Fall 2024.

Flying High Circus will be fundraising to create practice facilities to be used by the circus and other recreational events with revenue opportunities. The FSU Reservation is celebrating their 100th Anniversary.

C. Legislative Update

Mr. Clay Ingram Chief Legislative Officer

Mr. Ingram provided a legislative update regarding the upcoming legislative session, which begins March 2nd. Priorities for FSU during Session include budget, preeminence funding, and post-secondary academic library network funding. FSU Day at the Capitol will be held virtually on March 31st.

D. Athletics

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

Information Item

Coach Mike Norvell, FSU Football

Coach Norvell spoke about the excitement with the upcoming football season. Moving past last season's challenges, the program is working to develop physically and mentally. The football program had the highest GPA in program history at 3.1 GPA. Spring practice will begin March 9th and spring game will be held April 10th. COVID has presented challenges with

recruiting. Virtual tours allowed prospects to see the aspects of being a student athlete and football player. With 75% of the roster being freshman and sophomores, it allowed the program to recruit from the transfer portal and find the right fit. Currently, FSU has 2-3 transfers already on campus and they are doing a remarkable job.

Vice President Coburn provided an Athletics update including several NCAA issues such as the antitrust case in California, name, image and likeness and undergraduate transfer provision.

Additionally, VP Coburn spoke about the status of the transfer portal as it relates to football and the affect it will have on scholarships for high school athletes.

The NCAA has extended the football dead period to May 31 which complicate recruiting issues.

The NCAA is expected to address the issue of faked injuries during games.

Spring sports has 13 teams currently ranked in the Top 25 nationally. Additionally, spring sport fan spectating will be very limited due to COVID guidelines. Jim Philips, AD at Northwestern University, has been hired as the new Commissioner of the ACC.

Seminole Booster President, Michael Alford, provided an update on the addition of 1000 new booster members.

E. Audit & Compliance Committee

Dr. Sam McCall, Chief Audit Officer

Ms. Robyn Blank, Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer

Trustee Jorge Gonzalez, Chair

Trustee Gonzalez provided a brief update regarding the Audit & Compliance Committee. Ms. Robyn Blank provided an update on Ethics & Compliance initiatives. Dr. McCall provided an update on various audit initiatives. Additionally, the performance-based funding and preeminence audits were reviewed and approved by the committee.

Action Items

1. Requesting Approval of the 2021 Performance Based Funding
2. Requesting Approval of the 2021 Preeminence Metrics Audit
Trustee Gonzalez moved to approve the 2021 Performance Based Funding and Metrics Audit. Trustee Thiel seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

F. Finance and Business Committee

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

Trustee Sasser provided a summary of the Finance and Business Committee including the review and discussion of several policy updates that were approved by the committee. Regulation amendments, budget projections for FSU auxiliaries with risk revenue bonds, housing, transportation, and parking, which were approved by the committee. The annual financial report was discussed and reviewed by the committee. Chief Terri Brown provided a report on FSU Police Department. Financial projects were reviewed as it relates to the pandemic and discussed the estimated \$120 million impact.

Vice President Clark provided reviewed the COVID-19 Fiscal Impact, Financial Aid, CARES Funding, Operation Budget, CRRSAA Institutional and Funding. A COVID-19 testing and vaccination update was provided for FSU campus. A current budget outlook was provided with emphasis a 6% holdback per the Governor. Budget projection of a recurring 6% or higher budget reduction, as well as no PO&M Funding for new buildings and no tuition increases.

Vice President Clark provided updates regarding ITS, Controller's Office, Human Resources, Business Services, FSU Foundation, Panama City Campus. Aramark has been chosen as the new food service contract.

The University's credit rating is the highest credit rating of any public institution in Florida.

He reviewed the construction of the Student Union challenges and issues that have occurred due to the supply chain being affected by COVID.

Other construction/renovations updates provided were the Hoffman Teaching Lab, Bio Unit 1 Third Floor Renovation, CAPS improvements, STEAM Classroom Building and Auditorium,

G. University Advancement

Dr. Andy Jhanji, Interim Vice President for Research

Interim Vice President Jhanji provided a University Advancement update including the FY 2021 Total Gift Commitments as of February 5th totaling \$70,394,400. Endowments as of December 31, 2020 total \$784,369,304.

The FSU Real Estate Foundation has closed six separate gifts comprised of eight individual properties totaling \$1.4M during 2020. Additionally, projects they are working on are Hotel & Convention Center, Champions Hall and Strategic acquisition.

Seminole Boosters' Unconquered Campaign is in its fourth year and is close to reaching its initial \$100 million goal. Additional facility enhancements include new golf course opening, shade structure for softball and lighting for baseball.

The FSU Foundation new technology initiatives include Fundriver, Digital Endowment Reports/Report on Giving and Live Alumni

The 10th Anniversary of the FSU's Great Give is Wednesday, March 10th.

The FSU Alumni Association is currently at 25,980 members. They recently started a new podcast called Echoes. Seminole Clubs partnered with Student Affairs to provide "Dorm-in-a-Box" which includes supplies needed for their dorm rooms for Unconquered Scholars. Spring events include Homecoming Week with various award ceremonies and other events. The 2021 Inspire Awards will take place in March.

Chair Burr requested the Real Estate Foundation provide an update at the next meeting along with an update regarding the Gateway.

H. Faculty Senate Steering Committee

Dr. Erin Ryan, Vice Chair

Dr. Ryan addressed the B.K. Roberts naming and mentioned Rep. Ramon Alexander has started legislation for the renaming of the B.K. Roberts Hall. Additionally, she recognized Mr. Thomas Kelly's Public Comments from earlier today.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee formally ratified amendments to the FSU Constitution regarding faculty governance by specialized faculty members. The election is underway for specialized faculty to nominate and elect new representatives to the Faculty Senate.

Since November, the Senate has enacted several new measures addressing concerns of the faculty including revising the periodicity of qualifying graduate exams, requiring the appointment of a senate parliamentarian and formally authorizing the remote meetings that were held this year. Additionally, the Senate voted to modernize computer competency requirements for Liberal Studies program to a new standard digital literacy.

The FSU Sustainability Committee created last fall has created a mission to serve as an interdisciplinary think tank in crafting a set of actionable proposals to bring FSU in better alignment with strategic sustainability goals.

Honor Code violations have surged for online classes requiring a fine-tuning strategy in clarifying class policies and emphasizing consequences for violators.

I. Student Government Association

Ms. Nastassia Janvier, Vice President of Student Government Association

Ms. Janvier presented an SGA update including several upcoming initiatives remaining under the Levin, Janvier and Hall administration. Initiatives include MOCHA, FSUPD Safety Education, Legislative Agenda, and Accessibility Efforts. Women Student Union will recognize and celebrate Women's Month in March, Black Student Union hosted a Bowling Night, and Veteran's Student Union will host the Veteran's Ball.

J. Office of Research

Dr. Laurel Fulkerson, Interim Vice President for Research

Interim Vice President Laurel Fulkerson provided an FSU Research Funding overview of proposal, awards and dollars.

VP Fulkerson reviewed the Foreign Influence Concerns, and FSU's position on the recent thefts of intellectual property. Additionally, she reviewed the COVID-19 Sequencing Project and mitigation strategy as FSU is situated to monitor variants in the community. She also reviewed Research Administration Management Portal – RAMP, and Research Administration Manual (RAM). The 2021 MagLab Open House will be Feb 19-March 6.

She touched on the federal and state agencies on the issue of foreign influence and the potential for research funding by the US to make its way illegitimately to other nations. Research thrives on free exchange of ideas and FSU is proud of its strong relationships with federal government agencies which allows us to conduct research in areas related to defense strategies to Homeland Security. FSU's position on high profile arrests related to the theft of intellectual property and other crimes. The International Research sphere, those interests have also this interest locally about how we as institutions are controlling sensitive in our conversations with regulators law enforcement legislators and others who have expressed interest in FSU's efforts to prevent the conduct. Faculty activities are monitored based on nationality or country of origin. If we are able to assist various agencies with specific allegations of misconduct, however, of course it is our duty to comply in a way that is respectful, transparent, and in accordance with universe.

There have been instances, recently of faculty and graduate students being approached at their homes by investigators. Many of them have found these interactions distressing, and we are working with local agency personnel to come up with procedures that acknowledge both the reality of the situation and the perceptions of many of our faculty and students, federal agencies have started issuing guidance on these issues very broadly institutions of higher education have begun to work together to find and implement best practices, we're really all sort of a new, new ground here.

JCORE, the Joint Committee on Research Environment, is a group of federal agencies that have issued some best practices and see how federal agencies are going to implement.

K. General Counsel

Ms. Carolyn Egan, General Counsel

Ms. Egan reviewed the efforts taken to ensure the success and safety of the COVID-19 testing center and then the vaccine center. She recognized Betty Southard retirement after 31 years in the Office of Research. Ms. Egan reviewed several student discipline cases that have come up to appeal as well as an order related to a student who made a threat at the end of last semester.

A brief update was provided regarding the site cleanup. Bidders had an opportunity to visit the site and get a feel of the work that would need to be conducted.

Cases pending litigation include a former offensive line coach who has filed suit and student government matter.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Ed Burr, Chair

Action Items

- A. Requesting Approval of the Presidential Search Committee Member
Trustee Alvarez moved to approve Trustee Bob Sasser to serve on the Presidential Search Committee and Chair the Committee. Trustee Thiel seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.
- B. Requesting Approval of the President Position Profile
Trustee Collins moved to approve the President Position Profile. Trustee Alvarez seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.
- C. Requesting Approval of the President Position Advertisement
Trustee Alvarez moved to approve the President Position Advertisement. Trustee Mateer seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.
- D. Requesting Approval of the FSU Board of Trustees Committee Assignments
Trustee Sasser moved to approve the FSU Board of Trustees Committee Assignments. Trustee Ballard seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

E. Vice Chair Election

Trustee Gonzalez nominated Trustee Sasser as Vice Chair of the Board. The nominations were closed. Trustee Alvarez moved to approve Trustee Sasser as the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and was approved unanimously.

Information Items

A. Presidential Search Committee Update

Following the approval of Trustee Bob Sasser to serve on the Presidential Search Committee as Chair, he provided an update of the Committee. Mr. Alberto Pimentel, along with the search firm, held 10 different listening sessions with faculty, staff, alumni, students, and campus stakeholders to collect input that was factored into the position profile. The position profile and advertisement, once approved by the board, will be placed in several publications. The search has begun as the consultants have started reached out to over 175 potential prospects.

B. Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation

Chair Burr provided a summary of the Trustees Self-Evaluations highlighting the approval of the consecutive committee meetings schedule. Trustees would like to see a better focus on trustee responsibilities during orientation and better communication about the message as trustees need to have to legislators.

VIII. OPEN FORUM FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Ed Burr, Chair

During the Open Forum, Vice Chair Sasser discussed the concern of a non-incremental endowment size. Trustee Thiel echoed the same concern and would like to see more Trustee involvement in DSO's and fundraising. Thiel asked if a University Advancement Committee could play an integral role in achieving advancement efforts, fundraising and goals of the University. Trustee Collins commented that it is difficult if we are not in a capital campaign and a big goal for the team to aim higher along with leadership from the trustees to achieve the goal.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 pm.