

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021  
11:00 AM

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

MEETING MINUTES

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Attendees: Max Alvarez, Kathryn Ballard\*, Peter Collins, Eric Chicken, Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz, Jorge Gonzalez, Craig Mateer, Deborah Sargeant, Bob Sasser, John Thiel\* and Drew Weatherford

*Attended Via Zoom: Kathryn Ballard and John Thiel*

*Absent: Jim Henderson and Nastassia Janvier*

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

*Mr. Peter Collins, Chair*

Chair Collins called the meeting to order at 11:19 AM. Lynna Sands conducted the roll call and confirmed a quorum.

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

- September 24, 2021, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

*Trustee Sargeant moved to approve the August 27, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz seconded the motion and were approved unanimously.*

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

Chair Collins read the Ethics Conduct Policy.

**IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Dr. Richard McCullough, President*

President McCullough began his report with congratulating Peter Collins, Ted Ostrander and John Rivers for being inducted in the College of Business Hall of Fame. Additionally, he congratulated Col. Billy Francis for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Student Veterans Centers.

President McCullough presented his goals to the Governance Committee.

President McCullough and the First Lady attended several Homecoming events and

enjoyed celebrating our alumni with the various awards gala and recognitions.

Following President McCullough's report, Chair Collins asked that the Research Committee report be provided.

**V. CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Requesting Approval of the Naming Policy Revisions
- B. Requesting Approval for Proposed BOT Regulation 2.027 – Fraud Prevention Detection, Reporting, and Investigation
- C. Requesting Approval for Status Report on Construction Projects over \$2.0 million and Change Orders
- D. Requesting Approval of SUS Career Center Planning Guidance
- E. Requesting Approval to Terminate Bachelors in Early Childhood Education
- F. Requesting Approval to Terminate Masters in Nursing
- G. Requesting Approval to Terminate Masters in History and Philosophy of Science
- H. Requesting Approval to Terminate Masters in Interdisciplinary Humanities
- I. Requesting Approval to Recommend BOG termination of Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Humanities
- J. Requesting Approval of FSU College of Medicine Graduate Medical Education Annual Institutional Review Executive Summary (AY 2020-21)
- K. Requesting Approval of the Governance Committee Charter

*Trustee Gonzalez moved to approve Consent Items A-K. Trustee Mateer seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.*

**VI. NEW BUSINESS AND UPDATES**

**A. University Advancement Committee**

*Mr. Craig Mateer, Chair*

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

Trustee Mateer, Chair of the University Advancement Committee, briefed the Trustees on the University Advancement Committee Meeting. He reviewed several FSU Foundation Targeted Campaigns including what has been raised and the current goals. Additionally, he reviewed the fundraising goals for FSU Alumni Association, Seminole Boosters and FSU Real Estate Foundation.

Looking forward, complete RFP for new campaign, identify low hanging fruit opportunities, fundraising and communication strategies that align with the University Strategic Plan, clarify goals and transparency of numbers/plans, review structure of the organization, and discuss continuity/structure DSO campaigns.

Interim Vice President Jhanji provide the Trustees with documents that indicate the named/unnamed spaces, and new endowments.

**B. Finance and Business Committee**

*Mr. Jim Henderson, Chair*

*Mr. Kyle Clark, Vice President for Finance & Administration*

Trustee Gonzalez reported on the Finance and Business Committee meeting that took place on October 26, 2021, on behalf of Trustee Henderson. Several items were reviewed and discussed during the meeting including one action item that was on the agenda related to the construction projects over \$2 million the committee spent a considerable amount of time discussing the Student Union, the Interdisciplinary Research and Commercialization Building and Legacy Hall. The Student Union has had some challenges and the committee has requested Kyle to work with a contractor to reach a conclusion and find a resolution for the better of all parties involved. An update on the operating budget and collective bargaining was provided to the Committee. Regarding collective bargaining, the university has now closed out all of its major employment unions except for K through 12 teachers union at Florida High. During the August meeting, the Board encouraged administration to develop a multiyear agreement moving forward instead of negotiating one year agreement. We're pleased to report that there's a new multiyear contract has been executed with the police union and graduate assistant union. Finally, the committee heard of the report from the FSU PD interim chief Justin Malloy. The committee was provided background on the credit law enforcement agency crime prevention tactics and other matters.

Following Trustee Gonzalez's Committee report, Vice President Clark provided a report on several major capital construction projects on campus and how they are managed.

Interim Chief Justin Maloy provided a report on the various areas of the FSU Police Department including the mission statement, FSUPD Facts, Citizen Programs, and safety & crime prevention efforts.

**C. Academic Affairs Committee**

*Ms. Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz, Chair*

*Dr. Sally McRorie, Provost*

Ms. de las Cuevas-Diaz, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, reported on the discussions of the Committee including the items that were approved on the Consent Agendas. Additionally, discussions regarding how they choose to add or remove certain curriculums (degree programs). There is a thought-out process to terminate degrees and to add new degrees.

Also discussed in the Committee Meeting was faculty recruiting & retention and how does FSU compare with tenure track. She shared some important facts including 50% tenure track faculty, 20% teaching, 13% research faculty and 9% comprised of library, clinical and other faculty positions. Of the 25 benchmarks, FSU scored above most of our peers on 22 benchmarks.

Dr. Joe O'Shea, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, provided a report on behalf of Provost Sally McRorie. Florida State University is a finalist for the APLU 2021 Degree Completion Award.

We are currently at over 55,000 undergraduate applications with final deadline approaching on March 1. Graduate applications are currently over 14,000.

Some of the way Florida State celebrates its students include International Education/Transfer & First-Generation Student weeks.

Support for Students - \$17.7M in federal aid were distributed to more than 16,000 students thus far – American Rescue Plan. HEERF funding for FSU students totals \$40.1M – the remainder will be distributed in Spring 2022.

COACHE – Faculty Job Satisfaction Survey performed every three years. This is one of the primary ways to get a sense from faculty satisfaction. Areas of Strength are 22 of 25 areas.

Dean O’Shea discussed several new major grants that Florida State has received including:

- \$15.8M NSF grant for new 40-tesla superconducting magnet design at the MagLab
- \$12.8 NIH grant to foster faculty diversity in health sciences
- \$6.5M NIH grant to study spread of HIV
- \$3.1M NIH grant to address racial disparities in health

Student Success Grants

- \$1.3M Talent Search grant to improve college enrollment for students at Title I schools
- \$200K from Helios and \$100K from Truist to support CARE and Unconquered Scholars
- \$1M National Academy of Sciences grant for new Gulf Scholars program
- \$250K Small Business Administration grant for FSU’s Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship to support programs for military veterans

### **Information Item**

1. International Programs

*Dr. Jim Pitts, Director, International Programs*

Dr. Pitts highlighted several of the campuses for International Programs including the Republic of Panama Branch Campus – established in 1957 with 450 students, Florence Study Center which was established in 1966 and averages 409 students, the London Study Centre – established 1971 with 582 students, and Valencia Study Center – established in 1997 with 638 students.

He shared various photos and information about each campus.

### **Action Item**

1. Requesting Approval of Proposed Emergency Regulation Amendment FSU-ER21-3 Public Records: Uniform Charge Procedure

Trustee Weatherford moved to approve the Proposed Emergency Regulation Amendment FSU-ER21-3 Public Records: Uniform Charge Procedure. Trustee Alvarez seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

**D. Athletics**

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

Vice President Coburn reported on the NCAA Constitutional rewrite which includes NCAA priorities, three divisions with the authority and the autonomy to reorganize and restructure themselves on their own, reduces the board of governors from 21 people to 9 and includes student athletes as voting members of the board of directors as well as the governing boards of three individual divisions. Additionally, it embraces name image and likeness, but prohibits pay for play maintains the existing revenue allocations, which is interesting and the championship opportunities for each division and assures each division has the oversight of its own budget and revenue distributions within the division emphasizes mental health as well as physical health and puts a new emphasis on diversity and inclusion and gender equity.

Coburn spoke on the Playoff Governance Committee recent meeting. A consensus has not been reached regarding staying with a 14-team playoff or to go to a 12-team playoff.

The ACC Network's negotiations with the Disney Comcast have not been finalized.

**Information Item**

*Ms. Sue Semrau, Head Coach, Women's Basketball*

Coach Semrau addressed the Board and reiterated the importance of those that represent Florida State are to the athletic programs. She talked about the successes of the athletes because of those around them at Florida State University.

**E. Student Government Association**

*Ms. Colbi Thykadavil, Student Body Vice President*

Ms. Thykadavil introduced her team that have executed the executive projects for SGA. She recapped several of the events that SGA hosted including Homecoming Parade, Clock & Seal, Chief & Princess, Homecoming Live; FSA Conference and FSU's Perfect Week.

**F. Research Committee**

*Mr. Jorge Gonzalez, Chair*

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

Trustee Gonzalez, Chair of the Research Committee, provided a report of the Research Committee. The initial Research Committee meeting took place on October 6, 2021. The focus of the initial meeting was to get an understanding of the research eco system. Dr. Fulkerson and her team were helpful in providing an understanding to the committee members. President McCullough provided his vision and perspective about research at the university, which was extremely helpful. There are many components of the ecosystem and one of the components is the potential for commercialization tech transfer. There was discussion about the major assets of university research to leverage more dollars. A mission statement is forthcoming, but the main goal is to find a way to be helpful to the

university, particularly in its research function. The next Committee meeting is Tuesday, November 16, 2021.

Following the Committee update, Dr. Fulkerson provided a brief report on FSU Research Funding, Faculty Fellows Pilot Program - Dawn Carr – College of Social Science and Public Policy, Eugenia Millender – College of Nursing, Iain Quinn – College of Music.

**Information Item**

*Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, MacArthur Grantee*

Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, MacArthur Grantee, talked about her life, accomplishments, and achievements of today.

**G. Student Affairs Committee**

*Mr. John Thiel, Chair*

*Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs*

Trustee Thiel, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, provided a report on the October 26, 2021, Student Affairs Committee Meeting. The Consent Item regarding the SUS Career Center Planning was discussed and approved by the Committee. This is required completion by the end of freshman year or student will not be able to register for new classes. Myrna Hoover presented the proposed plan to meet the criteria required by the State.

Trustee Thiel discussed the Committee's recent visit to the Career Center's Clothing Closet. He encouraged the Board to consider donating professional attire to the Clothing Closet.

Trustee Thiel has asked that the Career Center take an inventory of the various colleges on campus and what they are doing to help place students in jobs. This will help determine what is working.

**H. Faculty Senate Steering Committee**

*Dr. Erin Ryan, Vice Chair*

Dr. Ryan provided a summary of recent Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting including updating Senate bylaws dealing with teaching evaluation committee, distance learning committee, and torch award committees. Language was revised in the graduate bulletin providing guidance on English proficiency metrics and revise how the law school calculates GPAs to reflect industry standards. Discussion regarding the University Library's policy on retiring books and how to ensure that narrow fields of research remain appropriately resourced. The Senate also considered requests for a permanent commitment to online course evaluations, and to revise graduate bulletin guidelines on under loads and overloads. The Senate delayed decisions on those pending further research in response to faculty concerns. A proposed policy is being considered to address outside threats to courses proposed by several senators after the cancellation of a history course under the pressure of extended external threats of violence. FSU's five-year strategic plan expires soon, and the faculty would like to contribute to the conversation about what should go into the next one.

The Senate steering committee has discussed faculty recruitment, retention, and evaluation, including our existing means of post tenure evaluation.

Concerns about the security of academic freedom at Florida's public universities remains high among faculty statewide. The state university system Advisory Council of faculty senates was deeply troubled by developments at the University of Florida regarding University decisions to prevent faculty from participating as subject matter experts in litigation by members of the public against various new state laws. These decisions though they were taken solely at the University of Florida, through negative national press to all of Florida's public universities, harming our own ability to recruit and retain high quality faculty and even students following the issues. The advisory council responded quickly and unanimously with an emergency resolution on threats to academic freedom, which we adopted a number on November 4, and which was read aloud to the Board of Governors at their meeting by our chair, Dr. Bill Self, who sits as a member of the Board of Governors.

Chair Collins reiterated that there are no stronger advocates for freedom of speech, freedom of debate, freedom of ideas, freedom of conversation about those ideas than this board.

#### **I. Governance Committee**

*Mr. Bob Sasser, Chair*

*Ms. Carolyn Egan, General Council*

Trustee Sasser, Chair of the Governance Committee, reported on the October 25, 2021, Committee meeting. The Committee was presented with proposed revisions and reorganization of board policies including Public Comment and Concern for Dismissal. Both policies passed unanimously through the Committee and were recommended for full board approval. Additionally, the Ethics and Conflict of Interest policies were two separate policies and there was interest in consolidating the two policies. This was not aggregable with the Committee to combine the two policies; therefore, this policy will be brought back to the committee for review. The Committee Charter was also reviewed and approved by the Committee.

The Committee was presented with the President's Goals & Objectives and were recommended for full board approval.

#### **Action Items**

##### **1. Requesting Approval of Board of Trustees Policy 1-2: Comment at Public Meetings**

Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz moved to approve Board of Trustees Policy 1-2: Comment at Public Meetings. Trustee Alvarez seconded the motion. Trustee Chicken asked for discussion on the item. He believes that it is not a good idea to limit the Public Comments to just the agenda items due to possible additional subjects that may need to be heard. Chair Collins feels the board should listen, but if there is a large agenda and Public Comments are allowed on a topic that just occurred the previous day, there is a possibility the board or public may not have all the facts or information that should be known. Action cannot be taken on any public comments that is not on the agenda.

Chair Collins recommended the item be tabled for another meeting.

Trustee Mateer asked for clarification on the legal obligation since items can be brought up, but the Board is unable to act on it if its not on the agenda.

Ms. Egan provided clarification on the obligation of the Public Comment item. The Policy stems from a Statute that requires some port of entry for the public to take a position before the Board takes an action or vote on an item. She also clarified that this are other means of communication with the Board including an email address. The purpose of the law changed in 2017 was to allow at least one opportunity to weigh in – one side or other – before the Board takes a legal action by vote. This opportunity is the Public Comments session.

*Chair Collins asked Ms. Egan to read the newly proposed language to be added to the Public Comment Policy.*

*Ms. Egan requested that the following be added to the end of Section 2 – The Board Chair also has discretion to permit public comment on subjects related to university business that are not on the meeting agenda.*

*Chair Collins asked for comment. Trustee Chicken acknowledged that the added language was a fair compromise.*

*Trustee Mateer moved to approve Board of Trustees Policy 1-2: Comment at Public Meetings with the proposed amendment. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz seconded the motion.*

2. Requesting Approval of Board of Trustees Policy 1-6: Board Dismissal

Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz motioned to approve Board of Trustees Policy 1-6: Board Dismissal. Trustee Collins seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

3. Requesting Approval of President's Goals

After short discussions, the Board voted unanimously to approve the President's Goals and Objectives as presented.

**J. Audit and Compliance Committee**

*Mr. Max Alvarez, Chair*

*Dr. Sam McCall, Chief Audit Officer*

*Ms. Robyn Blank, Chief Compliance Officer*

Trustee Alvarez, Chair of the Audit and Compliance Committee, briefed the Board on the Committee meeting. He mentioned the retirement of Dr. Sam McCall and a search firm has been secured to proceed. Additionally, the Sunshine Law and Code of Ethics were discussed during the Committee meeting.

Vice President Clark provided an update on the search process for Chief Audit Officer. The Audit Committee and Search Firm have met to review the position profile and advertisement. The Search Firm will be meeting with Dr. McCall and others in the upcoming weeks. If Trustees would like to meet with the Search Firm, please let VP Clark know.



Dr. McCall provided a brief update on information regarding Fraud Detection and Prevention.

**K. Legislative Update**

*Mr. Clay Ingram, Chief Legislative Officer*

Mr. Ingram provide a legislative update regarding upcoming session which will begin January 11, 2021. Committees are occurring now and will end about two weeks. The special session will be held next week to focus on federal vaccine requirements and other COVID-19 related items.

Gearing up for session, various meetings have taken place including visits to the NHMFL. The LBR for 2022-2023 includes a \$15.8 million ask for the NHMFL for critical infrastructure work on the electrical system.

At the Federal level, the contract team was on campus and had very productive meetings. Mr. Ingram reemphasized that there are so many things happening at Florida State University that it is worthy to focus on the Federal investment.

Seminole Evening is February 8, 2021, and FSU Day at the Capitol is February 9, 2021. Fun day to showcase the University.

**VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

*Mr. Peter Collins, Chair*

Chair Collins asked to revisit the Public Comments Policy due to added/proposed amendment language (see Governance Committee, Action Item 1).

Chair Collins expressed his appreciation on their diligence on the separation of the Committees. It has allowed more of a conversation during the meetings.

The next meetings announced:

February 8 & 9, 2022

April 18-20, 2022

June 22, 2022

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

**VIII. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 pm.