



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Governance Committee

MEETING MINUTES (Approved 11.10.23)

Thursday, September 7, 2023
1:45 – 3:00 PM

Augustus B. Turnbull Conference Center
555 W. Pensacola St., Room 201, Tallahassee, FL 32306

In person attendees: Committee Chair Bob Sasser, Board Chair Peter Collins, Trustee Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz, Trustee John Thiel and Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel Carolyn Egan. Also in attendance was Senior Vice President Kyle Clark and other University staff.

Attended via Zoom: N/A.

Absent: N/A.

- I. Call to Order and Welcome** – Committee Chair Sasser called the Governance Committee to order at 1:51 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. Vice President Egan advised that there was a quorum.
- II. Approval of Minutes** – The draft minutes from the June 15, 2023, meeting of the Governance Committee were approved without change.
- III. Action Items for Consideration of Recommendation to the Board of Trustees**

Action Item I: Request for Approval: FY 2022-2023 Presidential Evaluation – Committee Chair Sasser and Board Chair Collins expressed their appreciation to all trustees for their input and comments on the President’s evaluation. The President did a self-evaluation, which was helpful. Board Chair Collins said he agreed with the President’s self-evaluation and the President’s numbers and the Board’s numbers were close. Board Chair Collins and the President met and went through the Board’s evaluation and comments. The President has done the initial work and now there’s additional work to do. The President fully embraces the work to be done. All of the trustees voted that the President’s overall evaluation was “Exceeds Expectations.” Some of the individual goals had a “Meets Expectation” rating. Committee Chair Sasser stated that the President should consider the input and advice provided in the comments. He also noted that the

updated evaluation format seemed to work well and provided opportunity for additional comments. Board Chair Collins noted that most of the comments related to the “next level” of work for the President. He said that the University’s organizational structure, especially as the University continues to grow, is an area to focus on, as is FSU Health. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz agreed and noted that now that the President has filled the numerous interim spots, it is time to take a look at the organization chart. She advocated for a focus on health, research and communications. The Board will support the President in what he needs. Trustee Thiel moved to report favorably to the Board on the FY 2022-2023 Presidential Evaluation and Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz seconded. The Committee voted in favor.

Action Item II: Request for Approval: President’s FY 2023-2024 Goals – The Governance Committee considered the President’s goals. Trustee Thiel stated that FSU Health was not featured prominently enough, and Committee Chair Sasser agreed. Board Chair Collins suggested the hiring of a Vice President of Health Services to spearhead the FSU Health effort. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz noted the challenge of including Top 15 in the President’s goals when the U.S. News & World Report metrics change, and that must be considered in the President’s subsequent evaluations. In addition, there are good goals for the University to have that should be undertaken, regardless of whether they are considered in the metrics. Board Chair Collins agreed, noting that if the University is doing well and growing then a third party’s rating is not critical or necessarily indicative of success. Committee Chair Sasser noted three key elements to be included the goals: (1) FSU Health, (2) AAU status and (3) the FAMU/FSU College of Engineering. There was additional conversation about the College of Engineering, the need for growth, and related opportunities. Senior Vice President Clark provided an update on the efforts to provide additional resources for the College of Engineering. A request in the Legislative Budget Request related to new software for the University was noted. After a robust discussion, the Committee agreed that they wanted to approve the President’s goals, but also wanted the message communicated to him that there should be an emphasis on FSU Health and the College of Engineering, and with an understanding that the University does not live and die by the rankings. Trustee Thiel moved to report favorably to the Board on the President’s FY 2023-2024 Goals, with the comments from the Governance Committee communicated to the President by Vice President Egan. Board Chair Collins seconded. The Committee voted in favor.

IV. **Informational Items and Standing Updates**

- *SACSCOC Reaccreditation* – Vice President Egan provided an update, noting that Dr. Ruth Storm was busy with the finalization and upcoming submission of the University’s report, which was due the next day (September 8, 2023). The University’s report is 649 pages with 4,318 supporting pieces of unduplicated evidence and 8,645 duplicated files. Next, the Accrediting Body’s Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee will review the University’s submission, along with those of Florida Atlantic University and the University of Florida, as they are also up for reaccreditation at this time. The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee will report back in mid-November 2023 and then the University will respond in January 2024 to any areas for which more information is needed. Senior Vice President Clark provided some insight into the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee’s review and noted that there will be areas in which the University will need to provide supplemental information. The University will also submit its Quality Enhancement Plan focused on enhancing doctoral education in January 2024. The On-Site Reaffirmation Committee will visit the Republic of Panama and Panama City, Florida, and then the main campus on March 18-21, 2024. The Board Chair and others

will participate in meetings with the On-Site Reaffirmation Committee. The Accrediting Body's Board will act on the University's reaffirmation in December 2024.

- *The Collegiate School at FSU Panama City* – Vice President Egan noted that after this meeting, this topic is moving to the Academic Affairs Committee. Dean Randy Hanna will give a presentation to that committee in November. Vice President Egan provided a brief update on the new charter laboratory school, noting that the facilities work got done in time for the school's opening, the school has 97 students with rolling admissions, and has a board and board counsel.

V. Open Forum for Committee Members – Trustee Thiel commented that the Governance Committee had had a great discussion. Committee Chair Sasser noted that there were lots of good things going on at the University. Board Chair Collins indicated that he would like the next Board meeting to include a tour of the Florida High charter laboratory school.

VI. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.