



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

Approved 6.20.24

February 1, 2024

8:30 AM

Augustus B. Turnbull Conference Center
555 W Pensacola St, Tallahassee, FL 32306
Room 208

Attended: Kathryn Ballard, Bridgett Birmingham, Peter Collins, Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz, Jack Hitchcock, Jim Henderson, Justin Roth, Deborah Sargeant, and Bob Sasser

Attended via Zoom: Maximo Alvarez; John Thiel

Absent: Jorge Gonzalez; Drew Weatherford

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Mr. Peter Collins, Chair

Chair Collins welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Chair Collins started the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silent meditation.

Heather Mayo called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 10, 2023, meeting minutes

December 22, 2023, meeting minutes

January 24, 2024, meeting minutes

Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz moved to approve the November 10, 2023, December 22, 2023, and January 24, 2023, board meeting minutes. Trustee Alvarez seconded the motion, and both sets of minutes were approved unanimously by all present at the meeting.

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 by thanking everyone for a great evening the night before and commented that FSU continues to have great interactions with the Florida legislature. He remarked that he was looking forward to the upcoming FSU Day at the Capitol and noted the recent legislative spouses luncheon hosted by the First Lady on FSU's campus.

President McCullough announced that following FSU Day at the Capitol, FSU will take part in an event in the courtyard announcing the new FSU Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases. Representative Adam Anderson spearheaded this institute. President McCullough expressed his gratitude towards Representative Anderson, the Florida Legislature, and Governor DeSantis for providing funding during the 2023 Session to launch this institute, which is the first of its kind in Florida, and noted FSU's commitment to making transformative progress to help children and their families who are impacted by these devastating diseases.

President McCullough continued his report by noting that FSU is requesting funding to hire more prominent research faculty, build upon FSU's award-winning student success programs, and recruit and retain top talent, including undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. FSU is also requesting funding to continue the FSU Health initiative.

President McCullough noted Governor DeSantis's executive order intended to ease transfer hardships for Jewish students seeking to attend Florida universities and that FSU would facilitate the transfer of eligible students and help ease burdens on them as required by the Governor's order.

President McCullough commented that FSU's freshman fall-to-spring semester retention rate was 99% for the second consecutive year. FSU's freshman-sophomore retention rate is currently at 96 percent — a rate that ranks FSU sixth in the nation. He noted that FSU has received more than 70,000 applications to date as the February 15 regular decision day draws near, and that for the second year in a row, FSU offered early action admissions for Florida residents. From early action decisions, FSU admitted students from 635 high schools in all 67 Florida counties. Eighty-eight percent of these students are in the Top 10 percent of their high school class, and 22 percent are the first in their families to go to college.

President McCullough noted that FSU has hit a record high of \$414 million in research expenditures, and FSU is well on its way to reaching the goal of \$500 million in annual expenditures as FSU grows its research portfolio. He updated the Board on the status of the \$98.4 million award from the Triumph Gulf Coast Board and said that FSU is currently negotiating the term sheet, which will be considered at Triumph Gulf Coast's upcoming board meeting.

President McCullough gave an update on FSU Health and noted that they are clearing the land for the academic health center on Tallahassee Memorial Hospital's campus.

President McCullough noted that Dr. Robert Brown, president emeritus of Boston University, will visit FSU's campus to share his experience and expertise in research, recognition, and rankings.

President McCullough gave an update on the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory director search and the hiring of another National Academy of Engineering member.

President McCullough gave an update on fundraising and highlighted recent events at FSU, which included the Laura Greene Festschrift, FSU Civil Rights Institute's Martin Luther King Day Celebration, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra concert, the Florida Board of Governors meeting, the Business of Healthcare Summit, and Combatting Human Trafficking symposium.

President McCullough shared news from FSU Athletics. He highlighted Coach Pensky and the FSU women's soccer team winning its fourth national title in program history. President McCullough congratulated football coach Mike Norvell on receiving two national coaches of the year awards after winning the conference championship following its undefeated regular season, finishing 6th in the country. He commented that he was looking forward to spring sports and that FSU baseball coach Link Jarrett would speak at FSU Day at the Capitol.

President McCullough concluded his report by thanking the Board for all they do and for their time and support.

V. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. **Request for Approval:** Federal Charter Schools Grant for The Collegiate School at FSU Panama City (Academic Affairs)
- B. **Request for Approval:** Degree Terminations Resulting from the BOG Productivity Analysis (Academic Affairs)
- C. **Request for Approval:** Proposal to Explore Bachelor's in Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (Academic Affairs)
- D. **Request for Approval:** Performance Based Funding Metrics (Audit & Compliance)
- E. **Request for Approval:** Preeminent Research University Funding Metrics (Audit & Compliance)
- F. **Request for Approval:** 2024-2025 Budget Projections for Auxiliaries with Outstanding Revenue Bonds (Finance & Business)
- G. **Request for Approval:** Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Florida State University College of Business Student Investment Fund – Tallahassee, Inc. (Governance)
- H. **Request for Approval:** Student Organizations and Activities 3.0015 (Student Affairs)

Chairman Collins noted that the Trustees heard about all consent items during the committee meetings the day prior and that there would be no action items during this meeting. He noted that unless anyone would like to take an item off the consent agenda, he would take a motion to approve the consent item agenda.

Trustee Hitchcock moved to approve consent items A-H. Trustee Alvarez seconded the motion, and the consent item agenda was approved unanimously by all present at the meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS AND UPDATES

A. Faculty Senate Steering Committee

Dr. Roxanne Hughes, Vice-Chair, Faculty Senate Steering Committee

Roxanne Hughes, Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, began her report by thanking the Trustees for the opportunity to brief them on the work and concerns of the Faculty Senate. She noted that since the last meeting, the Faculty Senate and Steering Committee have worked closely with the president and his cabinet on multiple shared governance initiatives. Dr. Hughes advised that one initiative is the recent foreign influence compliance regulation published by the Florida Board of Governors as part of the Florida Legislative Statute. She reported that FSU administrators have been proactive in developing an FAQ document and gathering faculty feedback through in-person meetings and the president's Foreign Influence Task Force.

Hughes noted that the faculty recognizes that this law, like similar state and federal laws, has been put in place to protect U.S. data and science, including the research conducted by FSU faculty. She also commented on how the law affects FSU departments in research and the impact the law will have on hiring graduate students and conducting research at FSU. Dr. Hughes emphasized the importance of graduate students and their role in FSU's research endeavors and eventual AAU membership.

Hughes concluded her report by highlighting recent faculty accomplishments, which included:

- Dr. Wei Guo, a professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the College of Engineering, was recently elected a fellow of the American Physical Society. The Fellows Program recognizes members who have made advances in physics through their original research and publication.
- Dr. Joseph Schlenoff, Professor of Chemistry, and Dr. Bruce Locke, chair of the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, were recently named Fellows of the National Academy of Inventors, which highlights academic inventors who have demonstrated a spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating work that has made a tangible impact on the quality of life, economic development, and welfare of society.
- Dr. Schlenoff was elected to the elite American Chemical Society Division of Polymeric Materials. An organization that fosters the community of polymer scientists and engineers equipped to solve global challenges through their research, Schlenoff is the first FSU faculty member to be granted this honor.
- Dr. Maria Ryan, assistant professor in Musicology, was recently awarded the 2024 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, a competitive award for humanities scholars pursuing projects of value within their discipline and beyond.

- Dr. Henna Budhwani, Professor of Nursing, has been named a fellow of the prestigious Society of Behavioral Medicine. This honor recognizes her work bridging behavior and biomedical research, improving healthcare and patient well-being.

B. Student Government Association

Mr. Rodney Wells, Vice President, Student Government Association

Mr. Rodney Wells, Student Body Vice President of the Student Government Association, began his report by celebrating and sharing some of the accomplishments of the student body and milestones of Florida State University students. He noted that a student was chosen to receive the prestigious Thomas Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Fellowship funded by the U.S. Department of State and that 20 students are finalists for the Fulbright Scholarship. Mr. Wells reported that two students were just named John Lewis Scholars by the Congressional Faith and Faith and Politics Institute.

Mr. Wells continued his report by highlighting the recent Golden Tribe Lecture Series, which took place during the MLK celebration event. He highlighted the Jewish Student Union, which hosted the Jewish Heritage Month, and an event with a keynote speech by Sami Steigmann, a motivational speaker and Holocaust survivor. Mr. Wells commended Ms. Amanda Press, the Jewish Student Union Director, for her leadership of the organization.

Mr. Wells concluded his report by noting the Student Government Association's upcoming trip to Washington, D.C., to join fellow student leaders nationwide on an advocacy day.

C. Athletics Update

Mr. Michael Alford, Vice President and Director of Athletics

Mr. Michael Alford, Vice President and Director of Athletics, began his report by welcoming special guest and student athlete, Ms. Taylor Huff.

Information Item:

Ms. Taylor Huff, Midfielder/Forward, Women's Soccer

Ms. Huff gave an overview of her student-athlete experience at FSU. She noted that in addition to her experience on the soccer field, she has been challenged academically at FSU. Ms. Huff expressed how much Florida State meant to her and how thankful she was to be at the university. She thanked the Board and the president.

Mr. Alford began his report by noting the special culture that Coach Pensky has built within the soccer program and all its coaches.

Mr. Alford reported on the fall academic update and noted that they set the new highest overall semester GPA for Fall or Spring, surpassing the previous record. He said that 33 student-athletes made the president's list and that 325 (65%) have a 3.0 or higher GPA.

He thanked Mr. Miguel Negron, Dr. Joe O'Shea, and Dr. Mike Brady for supporting FSU's student-athletes in academics.

Mr. Alford continued his report by giving an update on the Elevate Champions Campaign – a campaign for moving women's athletics forward. Gabrielle Reece has been the spokesperson for this campaign.

Mr. Alford provided an update on the stadium renovation progress and campaign pacing.

Mr. Alford gave a quick update on the Dunlap Football Center construction.

D. Legislative Affairs

Mr. Clay Ingram, Chief Legislative Affairs Officer

Chief Legislative Affairs Officer Mr. Clay Ingram noted the Seminole Evening Reception and the FSU Day at the Capitol event. He thanked his cabinet colleagues for their assistance with both events.

Mr. Ingram provided an update on legislative funding requests and policy bills.

Mr. Ingram provided further information for FSU Day at the Capitol and the press conference with Representative Adam Anderson. He also noted that the Florida House of Representatives would read a resolution recognizing FSU and FSU Day at the Capitol later that day.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Peter Collins, Chair

Chair Collins made announcements regarding upcoming meeting dates.

VIII. OPEN FORUM FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

There was no further discussion.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.