



# FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Governance Committee*



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BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
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MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, January 31, 2024  
2:45 p.m.

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

*The agenda will be followed in subsequent order and items may be heard earlier than the scheduled time.*

- I. Call to Order and Welcome**  
*Trustee Bob Sasser, Chair*
- II. Approval of Minutes**  
*November 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes*
- III. Action Items for Consideration of Recommendation to the Board of Trustees:**  
  

**Action Item I: Request for Approval:** Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Florida State University College of Business Student Investment Fund – Tallahassee, Inc.
- IV. Informational Items and Standing Updates**
  - **Florida State University Real Estate Foundation, Inc. Update**  
*Dr. Richard McCullough, President*
  - **SACSCOC Reaccreditation Update**  
*Report submitted by Dr. Ruth Storm, Associate Provost, and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs | SACSCOC Liaison*
  - **University Policymaking Procedure**  
*Carolyn Egan, Vice President for Legal Affairs*
- V. Open Forum for Trustees**
- VI. Adjournment**



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
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# MEETING MINUTES

## November 10, 2023



# FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### *Governance Committee*

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#### MEETING MINUTES (Draft)

FSU Board of Trustees  
Governance Committee  
Friday, November 10, 2023

Miller Hall  
DeVoe L. Moore University Center C  
296 Champions Way, Tallahassee, FL 32304  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of University Center C, Room 3300*

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Committee Chair Bob Sasser, Board Chair Peter Collins, Trustee John Thiel.

**Committee Staff:** Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel Carolyn Egan

**Committee Members Absent:** Trustee Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz.

**Also in attendance:** Trustee Maximo Alvarez, Trustee Bridgett Birmingham, Trustee Jorge Gonzalez, Trustee Jim W. Henderson, Trustee Jackson Hitchcock, Trustee Justin Roth, Trustee Deborah Sargeant, Trustee Drew Weatherford, President Richard McCullough and University Vice Presidents and staff.

- I. Call to Order and Welcome** – As previous committee meetings concluded early, the Governance Committee was called to order at 10:55 a.m. by Committee Chair Sasser. He welcomed all attendees and noted that there was a quorum.
- II. Approval of Minutes** – The draft minutes from the September 7, 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: Nomination to the Board of Directors of the FSU Research Foundation, Inc.** – The nomination of Joesph W. (Jay) Landers, Jr. for an additional three (3) year term was approved.

#### IV. Informational Items and Standing Updates

- **SACSCOC Reaccreditation Update** – Dr. Ruth Storm, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, gave an update on the 10<sup>th</sup> year reaffirmation process with SACSCOC, which covers the entire institution, including all locations and distance learning. The University’s initial report was submitted September 8, 2023, and was 649 pages long. The SACSCOC Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee has reviewed the University’s submission and just provided its feedback. The University will respond to the areas for which more information is needed. The final responses are due in January 2024. The University will also submit its Quality Enhancement Plan focused on enhancing doctoral education in January 2024. The SACSCOC On-site Reaffirmation Committee will visit the Republic of Panama and Panama City, Florida on March 17-18, 2024, and then the main campus on March 19-21, 2024. The President, Board Chair and others will participate in meetings with the On-site Reaffirmation Committee. The SACSCOC’s Board will act on the University’s reaffirmation in December 2024. After that, the University will need to seek a new accrediting body, as required by recent law. There will likely need to be parallel processes for a time. The U.S. Department of Education has to approve a change in the accreditor.

The Governance Committee members commented on the great effort involved by Dr. Storm and University staff in putting together the University’s extensive report.

Committee Chair Sasser asked Dr. Storm when the “celebration date” would be. Dr. Storm noted that the SACSCOC Board’s action on reaffirmation would take place in December 2024. There will be an exit interview with the President, so he will have some idea of how the process is going.

It was discussed that access to the University’s submission would be provided to the Trustees. President McCullough said that it was a very interesting document that contains a lot of good information about the University, and he encouraged the Trustees to review it.

- **Board of Trustees 2023-2024 Manual** – Vice President & General Counsel Carolyn Egan stated that the Committee was following up on a few issues from the Board self-evaluation, which was discussed at a previous meeting. The first issue was a Trustee manual. VP Egan provided the Trustees with a three-ring binder that included a 366-page Trustee manual. The manual includes useful information such as contact information for university administration and staff, pictures and contact information of deans, upcoming obligations, conflict of interest information, FSU highlight and rankings, etc. If additional information should be added, the Trustees should let VP Egan know. The manual will be updated, as needed. In addition, VP Egan distributed the current Government-in-the-Sunshine Manual, which is a reference book for Florida’s public records and open meetings laws.

Board Chair Collins indicated that the upcoming obligations pages in the manual would be swapped out with new dates, as needed. He stated that he does not expect the Trustees to go to everything, but he wants them to know what is happening.

Committee Chair thanked VP Egan for the materials. There was discussion that after New Trustees Orientation, new Trustees will be contacted to see how they are doing and if more information on any particular topics is needed. As to strategic and accountability plans, those will be coming up in meetings in 2024.

As to increasing advocacy to state and other officials, Board Chair Collins noted that such advocacy is important. He discussed FSU Day at the Capitol, which will be forthcoming. He also stated that sometimes the necessary contact is just picking up the phone. He said that everybody has been responsive, but they should let him know if they want to be more involved.

As to ensuring in-depth consideration in making decisions, this is an ongoing process that requires effort by the administration and the Trustees. This is harder to measure, but it is already happening. The foreign influence matter was cited as an example. Board Chair Collins said that the Board should be involved in developing the process, but then the University administration will execute it.

- V. **Open Forum for Committee Members** – There were no additional comments.
- VI. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.



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# ACTION ITEM I

## **Dr. Don Autore**



### **Department Chair and Dean L. Cash Professor of Finance**

Dr. Don M. Autore is the Department Chair and Dean L. Cash Professor of Finance in the Department of Finance at Florida State University's College of Business. He teaches courses in investments, econometrics and financial management, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and is a recipient of FSU's College of Business Undergraduate Teaching Award. Autore's research interests span a variety of topics in corporate finance and investments, including corporate equity issuances and repurchases, security analysts, short selling and blockchain technology. His work has been published in numerous finance journals such as the *Review of Corporate Finance Studies*, *Journal of Corporate Finance*, *Journal of Financial Markets*, *Journal of Banking and Finance*, *Journal of Financial Intermediation* and *Financial Management*. Since 2012, Autore has served as director of the annual Florida State University SunTrust Beach Conference.

Autore earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and an MBA from the University of Central Florida. His Ph.D. in finance is from Virginia Tech.





FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 3, 2024

Dr. Don Autore  
Florida State University  
College of Business  
821 Academic Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32306

Dear Dr. Autore,

As authorized and provided in Article I, Section 1.D of the Bylaws of the Florida State University College of Business Student Investment Fund – Tallahassee, Inc., I hereby appoint you to serve as a board member.

The term of your appointment shall be three-years, effective January 3, 2024. You shall serve in this position throughout your three-year term for as long as you are still employed by Florida State University, until this designation is rescinded by me or my successor or your service is otherwise terminated by law.

This appointment is subject to approval by the Florida State University Board of Trustees.

I congratulate you on your appointment, and I appreciate your willingness to serve on this board.

Sincerely,

Richard D. McCullough, Ph.D.  
President

cc: Dean Michael D. Hartline