



# FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### *University Research Committee*

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#### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

Augustus B. Turnbull Conference Center

555 W Pensacola St, Tallahassee, FL 32306

Room 214

**Committee Members Attended:** Jorge Gonzalez, Justin Roth, Bob Sasser, and John Thiel (via Zoom)

**Committee Members Absent:** none.

**Other Trustees in attendance:** Kathryn Ballard, Peter Collins, Jim Henderson

**Staff:** Dr. Stacey Patterson, Vice President for Research; President Richard McCullough, academic deans, and other staff.

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**  
*Trustee Jorge Gonzalez, Chair*

Trustee Gonzalez welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm. A quorum was confirmed.

**II. Approval of Minutes**  
*June 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes*

The minutes were approved unanimously and without objection.

**III. Action Items for Consideration of Recommendation to the Board of Trustees**  
*Dr. Stacey Patterson, Vice President for Research*

Trustee Gonzalez reminded the Committee that in 2023, the Florida Legislature passed legislation regarding any agreements with foreign principles of foreign countries of concern. Starting July 4, 2023, any new agreements or renewals of existing agreements are subject to this

legislation. These agreements include the hiring of faculty, staff, and graduate students with assistantships. The university Research Committee will review the candidates, then if recommended they will be forwarded to the full Board of Trustees for vote before going to the Florida Board of Governors for approval.

Dr. Patterson provided a detailed overview of the applicants' qualifications and the rigorous review process that led up to these two candidates being brought to the Committee. The Committee and Board were provided the candidate materials prior to the meeting. All Committee members and other Board members present had an opportunity to inquire of Dr. Patterson and others about the candidates prior to the meeting.

**Action Item I: Request for Approval:** Exception to Section 288.860(3)(d) to employ Graduate Assistant in Biological Sciences

*Chair Collins moved to approve the Exception to Section 288.860(3)(d) to employ a Graduate Assistant in Biological Sciences. Trustee Thiel seconded the motion. Committee members and trustees who were present but not formally members of the Committee engaged in an extensive discussion of the candidate's qualifications and the hiring process. The motion was unanimously approved by all Committee members present at the meeting.*

**Action Item II: Request for Approval:** Exception to Section 288.860(3)(d), Florida Statutes, to employ Graduate Assistant in English

*Chair Collins moved to approve the Exception to Section 288.860(3)(d) to employ a Graduate Assistant in English. Trustee Sasser seconded.*

*With the Committee not seeing a consensus with respect to approval of the English Department graduate assistant candidate, the Committee engaged in a general procedural discussion about not forwarding a recommendation from the Research Committee to the Board of Trustees absent a unanimous favorable vote from the Committee endorsing the candidate. After a procedural discussion, Chair Collins requested permission to withdraw his motion. Seeing no opposition to the withdrawal, the Motion was withdrawn.*

*Chair Collins and President McCullough, who are per Board Operating Procedures together responsible for setting the Board of Trustees' agenda, determined that they would remove Action Item II from the Board of Trustees' agenda.*

#### IV. Office of Research Informational Items and Updates

##### a. ASPIRE 2024 Midyear Update

*Dr. Stacey Patterson, Vice President for Research*

Dr. Patterson updated the Committee on the current research numbers. 1452 proposals have been submitted and that is an all-time high in proposal amounts equating to almost \$1.1 billion this year, and a total currently of \$415.8 million.

She gave a brief overview of the InSPIRE project in Panama City and the progress to date. The InSPIRE program has led to the opportunity to go after a National Science Foundation program that is called NSF Engines. A pre-proposal, Florida Advanced

Manufacturing Engine (FLAME) was submitted in August for a chance to compete for \$160M and we should know sometime in October.

Dr. Patterson gave a brief overview of the progress to date on FSU Health and the groundbreaking at the THM campus.

Dr. Patterson called the Committee's attention to the ASPIRE handout. This plan was launched in January of 2024 and was based on the biggest challenges that the faculty face. The steps forward in this brochure outline the things that the OVPR has completed in the past six months.

**b. MagLab and Future of Innovation Park**

*Dr. Kathleen Amm, Director of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory*

Dr. Amm has been at FSU for four months as the new director. She talked about how she is looking at the organization and ways to have stronger partnerships in the and outside of the FSU community.

**V. Adjournment**

*Trustee Jorge Gonzalez, Chair*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.