1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Governor Dean Colson, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee, and Governor Tom Kuntz, Chair, Select Committee on Florida Polytechnic, convened the joint meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee and the Select Committee on Florida Polytechnic University at 8:19 am. Members present for the Strategic Planning Committee were Dean Colson, Patricia Frost, Richard Beard, Manoj Chopra, Daniel Doyle, and Edward Morton. Members present for the Select Committee on Florida Polytechnic University were Tom Kuntz, Wendy Link, and Edward Morton. Quorums were established for both committees.

Governor Tom Kuntz outlined the foundation and purpose of the Select Committee and provided information on Florida Statute 1004.345 that outlines Florida Polytechnic’s requirements.

2. Consideration of the 2014-2015 University Work Plan

Governor Colson recognized Ms. Ava Parker, Chief Operating Officer of the Florida Polytechnic University, to provide the University Work Plan.

Ms. Parker clarified the mission and vision of Florida Polytechnic developed by their Board of Trustees, and the initiatives and focus of the university after it opens on August 25, 2014 to be in line with the Board of Governors’ initiatives. Ms. Parker discussed Florida Polytechnic’s focus on STEM degree programs to contribute to Florida’s high tech workforce. Ms. Parker provided information on Florida Polytechnic’s Academic Success Center for tracking student success throughout the university experience. Ms. Parker discussed Florida Polytechnic’s investment in the Innovation and Research Labs to include the Supercomputing and Student Data Center, Media Lab, Entrepreneurship Lab, Visualization and Technology Collaboration Lab, and Rapid Application Development Makerspace Lab. The labs will provide advanced technology for students, faculty, staff, and the community to improve learning outcomes, enhance research, and encourage innovation.
Ms. Parker discussed Florida Polytechnic’s planned enrollment growth with the 2016 goal of 1,754 FTE. Ms. Parker stated that no new programs will be added at Florida Polytechnic until the university is granted accreditation. Ms. Parker continued her update by stating that Florida Polytechnic University does not have historical data at this time for Performance Based Funding metrics, and it will be some time before this information can be reported.

Governor Edward Morton asked about accreditation and the ability for students to transfer. Mr. Morton asked Ms. Parker if she has received input from other universities about transfers. Ms. Parker indicated that Florida Polytechnic has had discussions with the Board of Governors staff addressing transfer capabilities. Ms. Parker stated that her research has indicated that each university sets its own policies on transfer students and that discussions will continue with sister universities on how to address the issue after Florida Polytechnic has all courses loaded into the common course system. Ms. Parker stated that Florida Polytechnic is continuing its work toward accreditation.

3. Florida Polytechnic University Implementation Update

Ms. Parker continued her update by discussing Florida Polytechnic’s start date of August 25, 2014. In addition, Ms. Parker updated the committee on statutory requirements, facilities, faculty, students, scholarships, centers and institutes, online strategies, and campus security.

Ms. Parker updated the committee on Florida Polytechnic’s faculty. She said that 23 of the 25 full-time faculty needed to start the first semester have been hired and that they have previous experience in academic institutions and industry. She noted, further, that 15 adjunct faculty have been selected, and are under contract.

Ms. Parker discussed academic programs, indicating that the academic degree program inventory has been approved as well as requirements by the Oversight Committee of the Articulation Coordinating Committee. Discussions are underway with various Florida Colleges to develop 2 + 2 AS to BS articulation agreements.

Ms. Parker updated the committee on centers and institutes. Florida Polytechnic has in place the Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research Institute. In the near term research will be conducted in Nanotechnology and Multifunctional Materials.

Ms. Parker stated that there is currently no timeline for online courses. At this time, Florida Polytechnic will rely on the Florida Virtual Campus and, in time look at online courses. In the future, Florida Polytechnic will address hybrid courses, online support materials, and then develop complete online courses and online degree programs.
Ms. Parker updated the committee on Florida Polytechnic’s statutory enrollment of 1,244 FTE. Ms. Parker indicated that Florida Polytechnic had 2,903 undergraduate applicants with admits of 972. Ms. Parker noted that the printed materials show 543 students, but as of this committee meeting there were 552 undergraduate student deposits. Eighty-two percent are male and 18 percent are female; 437 are freshmen, 115 are transfer students, and 21% are Hispanic/Latino students. Ms. Parker indicated that the average SAT of the students is 1,775; the average ACT is 26; and the average GPA is 4.01.

Ms. Parker also gave an update on the student success center with a personalized library, Academic Success Center, Living–Learning Center, and the Innovation and Research Labs.

She advised the Committee on the fundraising for scholarships at Florida Polytechnic University. The goal is $5 million; $2 million has been pledged and received.

Ms. Parker stated that offices and systems have been established to include Admissions, Registrar, Financial Aid, Bursar, Library, Budgeting, Information Technology, Human Resources, and Student Information System. She added that the accreditation progress is moving forward with a pre-application workshop. Florida Poly has also appointed an accreditation liaison, accreditation consultant, and accreditation committees, has completed the second draft of the application and a draft assessment plan, and has implemented a data management system.

Ms. Parker said that the discipline specific accreditation is not yet applicable to Florida Polytechnic University. She noted that the Campus Control Center has been completed along with the Admissions Facility. The residence hall is in the process of being built and students will move in on August 20, 2014. The residence hall will have 240 beds with 100% of applications received with a non-refundable deposit.

Ms. Parker spoke of the Innovation, Science, and Technology Building and shared pictures of the facilities with the committee.

The Wellness Center Phase I is progressing with the structural framework in place. Ms. Parker provided an update on off-campus space to include One Poly Place, the Polk State College joint use buildings, and the warehouses.

Florida Polytechnic is working on its future master plan for facilities planning. The short range plan includes the Applied Research Center, the Administration Building, Residence Hall 2, and recreation fields.

Ms. Parker updated the committee on campus security. Florida statutes requires the University to provide police officers and the university has hired a police chief and has partnerships with the Lakeland Police Department and Polk County Sheriff’s Office.
In closing, Ms. Parker indicated that Florida Polytechnic University is moving forward with statutory requirements, the facilities are on schedule and within budget, faculty hiring is almost complete, academic programs are being finalized enrollment is strong, and scholarship fundraising is on target.

Governor Wendy Link asked if Ms. Parker had considered sending a letter to incoming students to make sure they were still planning on attending Florida Polytechnic because students had applied such a long time ago. Ms. Parker called on Mr. Scott Rhodes, Director of Enrollment, to report what Florida Polytechnic is doing to address this issue. Mr. Rhodes shared that his office is touching base with students each week to make sure the interest is still there. To date, they have had only four or five students indicate they would not be attending on August 25, 2014.

Chair Kuntz thanked Ms. Parker for her presentation, and mentioned to the committee that on Thursday, May 22, 2014 staff from the Board of Governors visited the Florida Polytechnic University campus and came back with a positive report that the university is on track.

Chair Kuntz asked Ms. Parker about the SAT and ACT scores of admitted students relative to how they compared with admitted students at peer institutions. Ms. Parker indicated that the scores are in line with average scores in Florida universities.

Ms. Link asked if the Math SAT score was available. Mr. Rhodes indicated that he could provide the information at a later date.

Chair Kuntz commented on the red, yellow, green report indicating that it appeared everything was on track but that he was concerned about meeting deadlines. Ms. Parker indicated that she has a master schedule in place to make sure everything is delivered. Mr. Kuntz asked Mr. Rhodes how confident he was that 500 students will show up on August 25, 2014 for classes. Mr. Rhodes stated he was confident, as did Ms. Parker. Ms. Parker indicated that she anticipates the number of transfer students to change as Florida Polytechnic moves forward.

Ms. Frost commented that the faculty will make the institution. She inquired about whether Florida Polytechnic University had an orientation program. Ms. Frost suggested that they should have accepted 750 vs. 500 incoming students. Ms. Frost advised that she had concerns about the numbers for incoming students. Mr. Parker asked Provost Darkazalli to respond to Ms. Frost comments and he replied that 90% of the faculty is working with the admissions staff.

Mr. Morton asked Ms. Parker what Florida Polytechnic is doing with electronic textbooks. Dr. Darkazalli stated that the library will have electronic books in the library. Mr. Morton stated he would like to see Florida Polytechnic be the leader in electronic textbooks.
Mr. Cavallaro inquired about the student affairs division and the statutory requirement to have a student government organization. Ms. Parker stated that there is a Director of Student Affairs on board who is moving forward in working with students. The foundation is in place, but nothing will be done until the Fall with Florida Polytechnic student elections. Mr. Cavallaro offered his assistance in helping to start-up the student government organization.

Mr. Chopra asked about discipline-specific accreditation. He also inquired if there was a faculty senate at Florida Polytechnic. Dr. Darkazalli stated that the university would undertake discipline-specific accreditation at the appropriate time.

4. Approval of Committee Minutes from June 18, 2014

Chair Kuntz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2014 and March 19, 2014 committee meetings. A motion was made by Ms. Link, seconded by Mr. Morton, and the committee concurred unanimously.

5. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Kuntz adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

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Karen Dennis, Executive Assistant       Tom Kuntz, Chair