

Presidential Search

Search Process and Criteria

Florida State University 2014 Presidential Search

Search Process and Criteria

Search Process

In February 2014, the Florida State University Board of Trustees (BOT) accepted Dr. Eric J. Barron's resignation as President and initiated the search for the university's 15th President. The BOT established the Presidential Search Advisory Committee (PSAC) and authorized the PSAC to begin the search process and engage a search firm. Accordingly, the PSAC held a series of meetings beginning in March 2014 and concluding on September 22, 2014. On September 23, 2014, the BOT conducted finalist interviews and voted to forward John E. Thrasher to the Board of Governors for consideration as the university's 15th President.

Criteria

It is preferred that the successful candidate will possess an earned doctorate or other terminal degree with a strong record of scholarship and teaching, and a proven history of executive level administrative experience in higher education that demonstrates the ability to lead a large, public research university. While academic experience (professional and administrative) is strongly desired, exceptional candidates with nontraditional backgrounds who have demonstrated a high degree of national or international success in business, industry, nonprofit or government will be considered.

In addition, the best-qualified candidates will possess:

- Staunch commitment to academic excellence in undergraduate, graduate, international and professional education and scholarship, and the ability to inspire confidence and encourage achievement among students and faculty.
- Adherence to sound principles of faculty governance through open communication and consensus building, while ensuring a high quality of student life and actively engaging students, faculty and staff in decision-making.
- A track record showing a high degree of personal and professional integrity, ethics and honesty; and the intellectual, analytical and interpersonal qualities that will foster respect among the University's myriad constituencies.
- Mastery of the successful balance among academics, athletics and the arts. Mastery of the intricacies of higher education governance, including accreditation practices, and ability to enhance productive and collegial relationships among all parts of the University.
- Talent and vision to enhance the quality of graduate programs, stimulate interdisciplinary collaboration, and build added research capacity to secure Florida State's position among global peers.
- Proven record of supporting a culturally rich environment of inclusion where faculty, students, administrators, and staff actively contribute to the vibrant life of

the University, and a stated commitment to recruiting women and minorities to the student body and for faculty, staff and administrative positions.

- Appreciation for the currently recognized jewels in Florida State's academic crown, a commitment to lead successful efforts to further strengthen peaks of excellence, and support for building new areas of nationally recognized strength as appropriate to advance the University's scholarly and research competitiveness.
- Dedication to academic freedom and an inclusive campus culture where both intellectual curiosity and healthy internal communication flourish in an environment that supports and rewards academic achievement of faculty while working individually or collaboratively within and among disciplines.
- Ability to establish and project a sense of energy, enthusiasm and optimism for Florida State's future while vigorously championing its storied traditions, unique heritage, mission and vision among wide audiences, both internal and external.
- Persuasive and enthusiastic fundraising skills with the ability to successfully connect with public and private donor sources (i.e. friends, boosters, alumni, corporations, and foundations), and leverage dollars to support high-caliber scholarly, research and service programs and grow faculty/staff resources, and ability to successfully acquire public and governmental resources and funding.
- Experience in achieving measurable outcomes with business, education and political communities, and in growing innovative public-private partnerships with industry, government and other entities.
- The appreciation for and ability to leverage the University's Division I athletics program to strengthen Florida State's identity as a national competitor and community partner.