

MINUTES  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
JUNE 22, 2016

*Video or audio archives of the meetings of the Board of Governors  
and its committees are accessible at <http://www.flbog.edu>*

1. Call to Order

Governor Wendy Link called the meeting to order at 1:28 p.m. on June 22, 2016. Other Committee members present were Governors Doyle, Jordan, Morton, and Valverde. A quorum was established. Other Board members in attendance were Governors Beard, Kuntz, Levine, Lautenbach, Robinson, and Tripp (by telephone).

2. Meeting Minutes

Governor Link asked for a motion to approve minutes of the Committee's March 17, 2016 meeting. A motion was made by Governor Doyle, seconded by Governor Valverde, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Florida Polytechnic University Implementation Update

Governor Link indicated that the University's 2016 Work Plan had been taken off the Strategic Planning Committee's agenda and that it would be taken up at that Committee's September meeting. She noted that the Polytechnic Monthly Update template had been revised, and called on Vice Chancellor Ignash to advise the Committee relative to the changes. Vice Chancellor Ignash said that the revised template included a place for Board staff input and identified critical dates which, if not met, could have an effect on future dates, including other critical dates. Chair Link thanked Vice Chancellor Ignash, and then called on President Avent to provide the Committee with the University's latest implementation update.

President Avent said that just the previous Monday SACS had approved the University for accreditation candidacy. He said that the next major step was for Poly to meet compliance certification. President Avent said that he expected that final compliance certification would be submitted to SACS in December 2016. He said, further, that the

University's understanding of the definitions for the colors on the Monthly Update were now in sync with the Board's understanding. With regard to discipline-specific accreditation, President Avent indicated that University representatives had attended ABET meetings and that Poly was in the process of hiring two faculty with ABET accreditation experience.

With regard to enrollments, President Avent said that applications were decreasing but that admissions were increasing. He noted that two Fulbright Scholars had been admitted for the coming year. He projected that the University would enjoy rapid growth for the next few years, with a flat projection in years after. President Avent said that he was certain that Poly would meet the 1,244 FTE threshold in 2017.

#### 4. Florida Polytechnic Cost Per Degree

President Avent said that initial start-up for the University would result in a high cost per degree due to the small size of the student population but that it was sure to go down with increasing enrollments. He said that some cost reduction could be achieved by increasing centralized services. He noted that the cloud-based information technology infrastructure that Poly intended to use was expensive and that STEM programs and the laboratories associated with them were inherently expensive. President Avent noted that STEM faculty typically cost 40 percent more than other faculty.

#### 5. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Closing remarks centered on the University's Work Plan. President Avent said that his expectations were that graduation and retentions rates would initially be problematic. With regard to graduation and retention, he indicated that courses in calculus, chemistry, and philosophy were challenges for students. He said that retention strategies included more tutoring, boot camps for mathematics, and one-on-one success coaches. He said, further, that upon receiving SACS accreditation, Poly would be in a position to consider curricular changes and perhaps new programs.

President Avent noted that, per the discussions relative to cost per degree, Poly would be challenged in this area unless the University changed its mission. Chair Link said that a mission change was not an option and that, in fact, Poly's engineering programs needed to be even better than the already excellent engineering programs found elsewhere in the State University System. She then asked for any further observations by Committee or Board members.

Governor Kuntz noted that there had been multiple conversations between Poly and Board staff. He queried as to whether there was any disconnect between Board staff expectations and the information that would be provided by Poly. President Avent said that he believed there was no disconnect. Governor Kuntz said that he was looking forward to seeing a complete 2016 Poly Work Plan in September. Governor Kuntz also asked President Avent when he expected the University to participate in performance-based funding. President Avent said that real data would not be available until 2020. Governor Kuntz noted that it was to the University's advantage to begin participating in performance-based funding as soon as possible.

Chair Link queried as to whether President Avent thought that Florida's two-plus-two transfer system was appropriate to the institution. President Avent said that this would be a good subject for further discussion.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Governor Link adjourned the meeting.

---

Wendy Link, Chair

---

R.E. LeMon  
Associate Vice Chancellor,  
Academic and Student Affairs