MINUTES STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Florida International University

January 25, 2023

Video or audio archives of the meetings of the Board of Governors and its committees are accessible at <https://thefloridachannel.org/>.

1. Call to Order

Chair Brian Lamb convened the meeting on January 25, 2023, with the following members present: Governors Lamb, Silagy, Cerio, Diaz, Edge, Frost, Gabadage, Haddock, Jones, Jordan, Levine, Mateer, Michael, Oliva, Scott. A quorum was established.

Chair Lamb then acknowledged and thanked President Fuchs, Chair Dean Colson and President Jessell. President Fuchs, Chair Colson, and President Jessell offered brief remarks. President Jessell introduced a video with several notable students capturing how FIU has prepared them to have success in their unique career paths.

1. Chair’s Report to the Board of Governors and Remarks on the State of the System

Chair Lamb recognized several of the State University System’s accomplishments including the number 1 ranking the nation in cost and performance, and thanked Governor DeSantis and Legislature for their role in supporting the system’s success. Chair Lamb outlined priorities set in the prior year and the progress made by the Board of Governors and SUS in meeting those goals. Chair Lamb further discussed his priorities for the Board of Governors going forward which included: continuing to invest in the SUS; the need to recognize a percentage of high-performing faculty and identifying what can be done to differentiate top-performing faculty; supporting a tuition increase for outofstate tuition; challenging university leadership to be highly engaged; supporting Chancellor Ray Rodrigues and General Counsel/Corporate Secretary Rachel Kamoutsas in their new roles as leadership on board staff; and challenging current Board members to continue to strive to be a high performing board.

1. Chancellor’s report

Chancellor Rodrigues shared updates regarding his progress over the last 60 days. A priority was to augment board staff and has done so with the new hires of General Counsel Rachel Kamoutsas and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Public Policy and Advocacy Tony Lee. He also reported visiting 9 of the 12 universities; meeting with university leadership and students, which has better equipped him to advocate on their behalf during session. Chancellor Rodrigues emphasized his shared commitment to regulate less and empower universities more; continue the ongoing work on post-tenure review, and work with universities to reward high performing tenured faculty at the conclusion of such reviews. He is also working with the universities on issues surrounding accreditation and to identify best practices focused on cost reduction that can be scaled across the system to demonstrate good stewardship. In closing, he observed the Board of Governors staff should do more to promote the prestige and value of the SUS and that ideologies around Critical Race Theory have penetrated policies and practices on campus. Reading the media narrative of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion reveals a narrow focus on “E” – the equity portion but almost no consideration of the diversity or inclusion aspects of it. Based on the information gathered, he noted there are important programs within DEI offices that need to be acknowledged. For instance, non-traditional students, Pell grant students, special needs populations, and veteran programs. In addition to communicating our success, we need to be communicating that DEI is more than just what is portrayed in the media, but includes these valuable programs that we want to make sure we continue to provide access to these populations so that they are successful.

1. Public Comment

Dr. Amanda Phalin, the Chair of the University of Florida Faculty Senate and an instructor of an online course, praised the access that online education provides to students. She offered a faculty perspective on DEI and that the emphasis is about access. Specifically, in the academy they view diversity and inclusion as mechanisms for providing equity of access and invited the Board members to observe her course.

1. Board Self Evaluation

Chancellor Rodrigues introduced the requirement for the Board of Governors to conduct a self-evaluation that will be administered electronically by board staff. Once the survey results are collected, he will report back to the Board at the March 2023 meeting.

1. Extension of Employment Agreement of the President for Florida Gulf Coast University

The Board took up consideration of the extension of Dr. Martin’s contract for FGCU. Vice Chair Ed Morton of the FCGU Board of Trustees presented information regarding the need for the extension and requested Board approval. Governor Cerio asked for a motion to extend Dr. Martin’s contract. Governor Diaz moved approval, which was seconded by Governor Mateer. No discussion was had and the motion passed unanimously.

1. Confirmation of Reappointment of the President for the Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University

Next, the Board considered confirmation of the reappointment of Dr. Larry Robinson as the President of FAMU. Chair Kelvin Lawson of FAMU’s Board of Trustees presented Dr. Robinson’s contract for confirmation. Governor Cerio called for a motion to reappoint Dr. Larry Robinson as President of FAMU. No discussion was held. Governor Michael moved approval, which was seconded by Governor Jones and the motion passed unanimously.

1. Confirmation of Reappointment of the President for the Florida Polytechnic University

The Board considered the confirmation of the reappointment of Dr. Randy Avent as the President of Florida Polytechnic University. Chair Cliff Otto of the Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees requested confirmation of Dr. Avent’s reappointment. No discussion was had. Governor Mateer moved approval, which was seconded by Governor Jones and the motion passed unanimously.

1. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation 10.001, Self-Insurance Programs

Rachel Kamoutsas provided an overview of Board Regulation 10.001 which governs university self-insurance programs. Two amendments to the regulation were presented: (1)amend subsection (2)(c) of the regulation to include the chairs of the university self-insurance program councils which would allow the chairs of those councils to have a seat on the board of directors of the captive insurance company, HEIC; and (2) revise subsection (1)(c)(4) to update the titles of UCF administrators who comprise the UCF College of Medicine Self-Insurance Program Council. Governor Scott moved to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation 10.001, Self-Insurance Programs, which was seconded by Governor Mateer. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **Presidential Search Report**
   1. **Florida Atlantic University**

Governor Alan Levine reported that FAU has selected AGB Search to serve as its executive search firm and the FAU Presidential Search Committee will be holding its kickoff meeting the following day. The search committee will be charged with its duties, oriented on sunshine law and the presidential search process.

* 1. **Florida Gulf Coast University**

Governor Darlene Jordan reported the Presidential Search Advisory Committee met on January 13 to resume the search for the next president of FGCU. Two new members were added to the search committee, which engaged in a a robust discussion. They received three proposals in response to a request for quotations for an executive search firm that had been issued by the FGCU Board of Trustees. The committee voted to invite all three executive search firms for interviews before the committee. The committee agreed to take up a timeline following the selection of an executive search firm. University staff is in the process of scheduling the interviews and she expects this to be an expedited process where they will be able to come back before the FGCU Board of Trustees in due course.

1. **Consent Agenda Items for Approval:**

1. **Board Minutes, November 9, 2022**
2. **Strategic Planning Committee Report**
3. Public Notice of Approval of Amendments to Regulation 3.006, Accreditation
4. **Academic and Research Excellence Report**
5. World Class Faculty and Scholar Program Report
6. Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program Report
7. **Budget and Finance Committee Report**
8. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 7.002 Tuition and Fee Assessment, Collection, Accounting and Remittance
9. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 9.007 State University System Operating Budgets and Requests
10. **Facilities Committee Report**
11. Public Notice of Approval of Amendments to Regulation 14.003, Fixed Capital Outlay University Budgeting Procedures
12. Amendment of Educational Plant Survey of the University of Florida
13. Amendment to 2023-2024 Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request
14. Authorization to Issue Debt for On-Campus Housing for Florida Polytechnic University in the amount of $74 Million
15. **Academic and Student Affairs Committee Report**
16. Articulation Coordinating Committee’s Policy on the Evaluation and Awarding of Postsecondary Credit for Law Enforcement Training
17. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.008, Postsecondary College-level Preparatory Testing, Placement, and Instruction for State Universities
18. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.017, Criteria for Awarding the Baccalaureate Degree
19. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.005, General Education Core Course Options
20. Specialized Admissions Request
21. Doctor of Dental Medicine, CIP 51.0401, Florida Atlantic University
22. Public Notice of Approval of Amendments to Regulation 8.015, Academic Program Review
23. **Nomination and Governance Committee Report**
24. Consider Appointments of University Trustees

Prior to the board vote on the consent agenda, two items were removed from the consent agenda for discussion and individual action: Item E.4. (Authorization to Issue Debt for On-Campus Housing for Florida Polytechnic University in the amount of $74 Million) and Item F.6 (Doctor of Dental Medicine, CIP 51.0401, Florida Atlantic University). Governor Cerio called for a motion to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda. Governor Jones moved approval, which was seconded by Governor Lydecker, and the motion passed unanimously.

Governor Cerio invited any discussion on Item E.4 of the consent agenda (Authorization to Issue Debt for On-Campus Housing for Florida Polytechnic University in the amount of $74 Million). No discussion was had, Governor Levine moved to approve this item and was seconded by Governor Mateer. The motion passed with Governor Oliva voting in opposition. The next item considered was F.6. (Doctor of Dental Medicine, CIP 51.0401, Florida Atlantic University). Prior to a motion being made, Governor Oliva stated he wished to reiterate the concerns he expressed when the item was taken up by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting. Thereafter, Governor Frost moved approval of this item, which was seconded by Governor Levine. The motion passed with majority of members voting in favor, except Governor Scott and Governor Oliva voted in opposition.

1. **Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**

Governor Cerio concluded the meeting by announcing that the next meeting would take place by conference call February 22, 2023 and the next in person meeting on March 28 and March 29 at Florida A&M University and adjourned the meeting.