

MINUTES  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
June 21, 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 on June 21, 2016. Other Committee members in attendance were Governors Doyle, Jordan, and Morton. Other Board of Governors members in attendance were Governors Colson and Robinson. A quorum was established.

2. Florida Polytechnic University Roundtable Discussion

The meeting was conducted as a roundtable discussion between Board of Governors members, Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees members, President Avent and Poly staff, and Board of Governors staff. The focus of the meeting was on the University's 2016 Work Plan.

Chancellor Criser gave a brief explanation of the purpose of the meeting, providing background information on the process for Board of Governors staff review of university Work Plans, and the briefing of Board members on each university's Work Plan in preparation for the June 2016 meeting. He noted that Florida Polytechnic's Work Plan approved by the University Board was not completed in accordance with instructions provided, which necessitated corrections to the Plan and, as there was no time for the corrected Work Plan to be reviewed and approved by the University Board prior to the June 2016 Board of Governors meeting, it was not appropriate for it to be presented and considered by the Board of Governors.

President Avent agreed that there had been misunderstanding of how the metrics in the Work Plan should be projected, and explained that as a new university there was no existing data to build on. He further explained the assumptions on which projections were based. He said that the percentage of graduates found working should be high because workforce demand is high for engineers and computer technologists, the only types of programs offered. He said, further, that Poly should score well on the median

wages metric, because starting salaries are typically higher for the engineering and computer technology fields. President Avent indicated that Poly will probably never match the other universities on cost-to-degree because of the size of its student population, and because STEM degree programs are more expensive to operate. Dr. Avent said that after achieving SACSCOC accreditation, the University plans to re-engineer its curriculum to provide pathways to graduation for students who are unsuccessful in the engineering programs.

Governor Robinson questioned whether the projection of 75 percent found employed one year after graduation was realistic, since President Avent had noted that 20 percent of the graduates might become self-employed, and there is currently no mechanism for tracking self-employment. President Avent agreed that it might have an impact, but that it was too early to determine if such impact would be significant enough to change projections.

Governor Colson questioned whether the ten year plan for 1,000 graduates was realistic. President Avent stated that he had discussed this issue on other occasions with the current and previous Board of Governors' Chairs and had agreed to slow down on achieving that goal due to the requirement for additional facilities. He also noted that this would affect the overall cost-to-degree.

Governors Link, Colson, and Morton all expressed their desire that Florida Polytechnic University set itself apart from the other universities and become the crown jewel for engineering and technology in the State University system. President Avent acknowledged that desire and stated that he wanted the University to become the most selective institution in the State University System. Governor Morton also reiterated the importance of achieving timely accreditation on the ability of the University to achieve its goal of selective admissions, and this was acknowledged by President Avent.

Governor Link expressed her concern to the Poly Trustees in attendance that a Work Plan had been approved that did not contain numerical goals. Trustee Wilson apologized and stated that there was a misunderstanding between staffs as to the metrics definitions and how projections could be made. Trustee Martin assured Governor Link that going forward, trustees would work more closely with University and Board staff to understand the metrics and ensure that each category was completed properly and accurately.

Governor Colson asked when Poly could provide a vision of what it would look like in ten years. President Avent stated that the University was in the process of developing its new Strategic Plan and should be able to provide such a vision when it was completed.

Governor Link noted that the statutory mandate to reach 1,244 student FTEs by December 2017 could create a challenge for achieving selectivity and quality because the University may have to admit lower qualified students to achieve that goal. She questioned whether an attempt should be made to change the statute. There was no consensus that such action was needed.

Governor Link thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting and reemphasized the Board's aspirational goal for Florida Polytechnic University to become the crown jewel for engineering and technology in the State University System of Florida.

3. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned.

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Wendy Link, Chair

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