



Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2025
9:45 – 10:45 A

Florida Polytechnic University
Virtual via Microsoft Teams

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Sidney Theis called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 9:46 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Kristen Wharton called the roll: Committee Chair Sidney Theis, Trustee Christos Tsetsekas, Trustee Brad Towle, Trustee Lyn Stanfield, Trustee Ilya Shapiro, and Trustee Dorian Abbot were present (Quorum)

Committee members not present: N/A

Other Trustees Present: Trustee Cliff Otto

Staff Present: President Devin Stephenson, Vice President and Interim Provost Brad Thiessen, Dr. Allen Bottorff, David Fugett, David Blanton, Mike Dieckmann, Kevin Calkins, Kristen Wharton, and Melaine Schmiz

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Approval of November 7, 2024, Minutes

Trustee Brad Towle motioned to approve the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes of November 7, 2024. Trustee Lyn Stanfield seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. 2024-2026 Academic and Student Affairs Committee Work Plan

Committee Chair Theis reviewed the Academic and Student Affairs Committee Work Plan. There was no discussion on this agenda item.

VI. Academic Affairs Report

Provost Brad Thiessen began his presentation by announcing that 576 students were on either the president's or provost's list for fall 2024.

Thiessen provided updates in four areas: performance, curriculum, faculty, and accreditation. Regarding Performance Based Funding (PBF) metrics, Thiessen projects the University will reach a score of 77, which is unchanged from his November projection. He also reviewed the academic progress rate (APR) where Florida Poly is projected to achieve a score of 75. Thiessen delved into the academic performance of first-year students from fall 2024 and the impact it has on APR. His goal is to bring the DFW rate down to 10% by fall 2027 by increasing academic support, providing instructional development through a faculty center for teaching and learning, and developing curricular improvements.

Thiessen reviewed faculty recruitment efforts and shared newsworthy faculty accomplishments. Additionally, he reviewed quality of life improvements for faculty that include simplifying processes and forms and adjusting the academic calendar.

The University's proposal to SACSCOC to develop an online master's degree in engineering management has been assigned to a reviewer; Thiessen expects to receive approval from SACSCOC at any time. He also reported that our application for reaccreditation with HLC was submitted on January 17, 2025, with February 2026 still being the target date for approval.

ABET accreditation reviewers conducted their onsite visit last week; Thiessen stated while there are some areas for improvement, the reviewers were positive with their feedback.

Trustee Christos Tsetsekas asked about implementing introductory classes for each major. Thiessen responded that new introductory classes are still being developed, and that they will replace FLAME.

Thiessen also clarified questions about Pell grant recipients, math placement, and faculty hiring.

Trustee Dorian Abbot commended Provost Thiessen for his thorough and common-sense analysis on the Performance Based Funding (PBF) metrics. He suggested adding a fourth leg to the three-legged stool Thiessen spoke of, and that fourth leg is Admissions. Trustee Abbot also praised the team for their efforts in broadening tutoring services for students.

VII. Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications Report

Vice President Bryan Brooks delivered an encouraging admissions report for Fall 2025, noting significant year-over-year (YOY) increases in inquiries, applicants, admits, and deposits. As of yesterday, applications are up by more than 6%. This uptick can be attributed to the new leadership in enrollment and admissions, which has successfully improved communication with prospective students.

Brooks also announced the addition of Knack online tutoring services, available to students around the clock. The Dale Carnegie training program remains a student favorite, and this spring will see the launch of a leadership book club and a strengths finder assessment.

Trustee Abbot underscored the critical importance of leadership development, particularly for STEM students.

VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kristen J. Wharton
Corporate Secretary