



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021
FSU ZOOM
3:05 P.M.

I. Regular Session

A special session of the 2021-22 Faculty Senate was held on Thursday, May 20, 2021. Faculty Senate President Eric Chicken presided.

The following members attended the Senate meeting:

G. Adams, T. Adams, A. Ai, P. Aluffi, S. Ballas, E. Bangi, A. Barbu, C. Barrilleaux, C. Barry, B. Birmingham, M. Blaber, T. Bradley, M. Buchler, M. Bukowski, U. Bunz, G. Burnett, J. Calhoun, E. Chassignet, E. Chicken, R. Coleman, E. Crowe, S. Daniels, P. Doan, J. Du, V. Fleury, S. Foo, M. Gonzalez-Backen, R. Goodman, T. Graban, S. Grant, A. Gunjan, D. Gussak, W. Hanley, P. Hoeflich, C. Hofacker, R. Hughes, E. Jakubowski, K. Jones, C. Kelley, H. Kern, D. Kim, E. Kim, J. Kimmes, E. Klassen, T. Lee, C. Madsen, T. Mariano, M. McFarland, A. McKenna, E. Murphy, I. Padavic, J. Palmer, E. Peters, D. Peterson, A. Rassweiler, K. Reynolds, N. Rogers, E. Ryan, T. Somasundaram, D. Soper, J. Standley, E. Stewart, R. Stilling, G. Tyson, A. Vanli, A. Volya, D. Whalley, and Z. Yu.

The following members were absent. Alternates are listed in parenthesis:

I. Alabugin, T. Albrecht-Schoenzart, E. Alvarez, D. Armstrong, P. Berrli, D. Bish, M. Bourassa, R. Brower, J. Brown-Speights, E. Cecil, I. Chiorescu, M. Duncan, F. Dupulgrenet, D. Eccles, C. Frederlksen, J. Geringer, W. Guo, K. Harris, E. Hilinski, L. Hinnant, A. Huber, P. Iatarola, J. Ingram, K. Ishangi, S. Lester, E. Loic, I. MacDonald, G. Martorella, C. Moore, R. Morris, A. Muntendam, M. Nair-Collins, C. Patrick, Q. Rao, L. Rinaman, C. Schmertmann, H. Schwadron, J. Sobanjo, B. Stults, M. Swanbrow-Baker, Q. Yin, and I. Zanini-Cordi.

After calling the meeting to order, Eric Chicken stated that as the faculty's representative on the Board of Trustees, running this meeting would be a potential conflict of interest. To avoid bias of any kind in the presidential search process, Eric Chicken requested that Senator Gary Tyson and Senator Erin Ryan run today's meeting.

II. Approval of the Agenda, May 20, 2021 meeting

Although the agenda was not formally approved, Senator Gary Tyson described verbally the plans for the meeting before beginning discussion of the Presidential Search Finalists. No objections were posed, and the meeting continued.

III. Discussion of Presidential Search Finalists

- Gary Tyson suggested that the two faculty members selected to represent the faculty on the presidential search committee, Bridgett Birmingham and Pam Perrew, speak to the Senate and give an overview of the current state of the search.
- Bridgett Birmingham spoke about the presidential search committee, which was comprised of 15 members. The committee selected Storbeck, Pimentel, & Associates as the partner search firm. As the search committee created an open candidate profile, the Storbeck search firm actively recruited potential candidates through their network. The original intent was for the search process to continue open-ended until a full slate of qualified candidates was established; however, talk began in April to close the search process in order to keep a timeline that allows for proper student and faculty input. The field was narrowed to nine candidates, who visited the FSU campus for one-hour interviews. From those nine, three were selected by the committee. These three individuals are Richard McCullough, Robert Blouin, and Giovanni Piedimonte. The interviews and vetting process done for these three individuals will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees to select from. Pursuant to rules from the Board of Governors, the three individuals are not ranked by level of preference from the committee.
- Pam Perrew noted that the head of the search firm did ask each member of the search committee to submit their top three choices for candidates during the interview process.
- Gary Tyson explained that the purpose of today's meeting is to hold a poll on each of the three potential candidates; specifically, the poll will only be on the question of whether each candidate is qualified for the position of President of FSU.
- **The Faculty Senate was polled on the question "Is Richard McCullough qualified for the position of President?" The poll was in overwhelming support.**
- **The Faculty Senate was polled on the question "Is Robert Blouin qualified for the position of President?" The poll was in overwhelming support.**
- **The Faculty Senate was polled on the question "Is Giovanni Piedimonte qualified for the position of President?" The poll was in overwhelming support.**

IV. Resolution on Presidential Search – Bridgett Birmingham (See Addendum 1)

- The agenda was modified to remove the report of the Steering Committee to devote the remainder of the meeting to the presidential search.
- Senator Petra Doan proposed a resolution to be adopted by the Faculty Senate. The resolution commends the Presidential Search Committee for their work in selecting the three candidates for the position of FSU President.
- **Robin Goodman, Arts & Sciences** – Brought up the rumors that the Board of Trustees plans to add a fourth candidate to the finalist list and asked if this possibility should be acknowledged in the resolution. Bridgett Birmingham stated that the possibility of a fourth candidate is unlikely to occur, but if it does the Faculty Senate will have another special session to respond to such a situation. Bridgett Birmingham and Petra Doan clarified that the purpose of the resolution is only to state on record that the candidates up for consideration are of exceptional quality and that the Presidential Search Committee should be credited for their nominations.
- **Tarez Graban, Arts & Sciences** – Agreed with the sentiments of the resolution and suggested a minor amendment to the resolution to change the language of the final sentence. The change in language would reiterate support for the three candidates selected by the committee. Discussion was had over whether this change in language would represent a functional change in the nature of the resolution

- **Michael Buchler, Arts & Sciences** – Expressed the opinion that Senator Graban’s amendment would shift the focus of the resolution away from the process and the Presidential Search Committee towards the three candidates.
- **Trinyan Mariano, Arts & Sciences** – Spoke in support of Senator Graban’s amendment, as the outcome of the Presidential Search Committee is just as much a commendation of the committee’s work.
- **Tarez Graban, Arts & Sciences** – **Motioned to add the phrase “these” before “three finalists” in the first sentence of the resolution.** The proposed amendment was seconded.
- Petra Doan accepted the amendment as a friendly amendment. The change in language was adopted.
- **Trinyan Mariano, Arts & Sciences** – Noted a small grammatical error in the resolution. Upon investigation, this was not an error, and the Senator apologized for the interruption.
- **The Resolution was Approved.** Members of the Faculty Senate thanked all involved for their work on both the resolution and the Presidential Search process.
- Erin Ryan reiterated that should there be any notable events in the remainder of the Presidential Search, the Faculty Senate will hold another special session.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Eric Chicken
Faculty Senate President

FSU Faculty Senate Resolution on the 2021 Presidential Search
May 20, 2021

The FSU Faculty Senate commends the 2021 Presidential Search committee for its work in selecting these three finalists for the position of FSU president. Each of these finalists possesses the intellectual merit, institutional experience, and research background necessary to further the University's mission in education and research and to propel us toward even greater national ranking, prestige, and reputation among the nation's top universities. We are grateful for the committee's careful consideration of all candidates and for their thoughtful and objective selection process.