



Item: CG: A-M

**COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, January 24, 2017**

**SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2016 MINUTES**

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**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION**

Initiate roll call to document member participation, ensure quorum, and approve the Minutes of November 16, 2016 meeting.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mr. Robert Stilley, Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Mary Beth McDonald, Vice Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Anthony Barbar (ex-officio) \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Michael Cairo \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Daniel Cane (ex-officio) \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Michael Dennis \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Abdol Moabery \_\_\_\_\_

**PARTICIPATING BOT MEMBERS**

Dr. Christopher Beetle \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Shaun Davis \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Malcolm Dorman \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Jeffrey Feingold \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Robert Rubin \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Thomas Workman \_\_\_\_\_



## COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2016

#### SP: A-M Roll Call:

Trustee Robert Stilley, Committee Chair called the meeting to order and initiated the roll call. In addition to Trustee Stilley, the following committee members were present: Trustee Mary Beth McDonald; Trustee Anthony Barbar (ex-officio); Trustee Daniel Cane; Trustee Michael Cairo and Trustee Michael Dennis.

Other Trustees attending the meeting included: Trustee Robert Rubin; Trustee Thomas Workman; Trustee Shaun Davis; Trustee Malcolm Dorman and Trustee Christopher Beetle.

A quorum was present and the committee was called to order.

The following university officials participated: Dr. John Kelly, University President; Ms. Stacy Volnick, Vice President, Administrative Affairs & Chief Administrative Officer and Interim Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Mr. David Kian, Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel and Interim CEO of FAU Foundation, Inc. and Mr. Ryan Britton, Executive Director of Government Relations.

Trustee Stilley called for approval of the May 17, 2016 meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve meeting minutes without change or correction. No discussion or commentary followed. The motion passed unanimously.

#### CG: I-1 Legislative Update:

Trustee Stilley invited Ryan Britton, Executive Director of Government Relations to approach the podium to give the legislative update.

I will give you a brief update on what has been going on. 2016 is rapidly drawing to a close and with the election behind us; FAU's Office of Government Relations is in the process of preparing for Florida's 2017 Legislative Session and continuing to expand our local and federal footprint. However, from a Government Relations and Community Engagement standpoint, 2016 has been a banner year for the University.

From finishing first in the BOG metrics and having all of our LBRs funded without veto, to continuing to expand our presence in Tallahassee and now in Washington, DC, and bringing high level elected officials and community stakeholders to campus, we have continued to raise the profile of this amazing institution. I will reference something Dr. Dennis and I spoke on last night while we were at the Medical School Advisory Board meeting. That is when I first came to the University four years ago, we were begging high level elected officials, community influencers, and people of stature in the community to please come to our campus. A lot of those invitations were met with no's, and that's understandable. However earlier this month, we hosted the Board of Governors on campus, Governor Scott made his fourth trip to our campus this year and First Lady Ann Scott also has been to campus recently. All of this shows the significant difference in the types of people that are coming to campus, the frequency in which they are coming and them wanting to be related to this institution and our relationship to excellence. This speaks to the work you are doing in terms of raising our profile and showing the leaders in our state that we are a place you want to be associated with and seen at because we are a place that's doing big things here in the state of Florida.

We have hosted high profile events – bill signings, incoming Senate President Joe Negron's SUS tour, IRL Symposium and the Palm Beach North Chamber's rebranding event. As well as events that are more intimate – personal tours, Congressional Youth Cabinet meetings, and informational briefings. I want to give a special recognition to VP Volnick's group, Dr. Flynn, Provost Perry and Dr. King's group for their culture of service. Unfortunately, in my world people don't provide a lot of notice before they come on campus, so usually we get a call sometimes the night before or 2hrs before and I've never been met with a "no" from anyone I've reached out to in the University to say 'hey can we make this happen,' in fact it's always a 'we will it make it work and whatever resources we have is at your disposal.' The culture of community service and being a service oriented organization is an important thing. It isn't always measured in terms of metrics, like how much money we bring in or what our legislative accomplishments are but that's a big thing to these people and it's usually reflected long term in the types of money that we can achieve or grants that we can get funded. The support we've been given as an office is tremendous and I just want to say thank you very much because it really does a lot to help move our priorities forward.

Let's talk about what has been going on. There was obviously an election. President-elect Trump continues to buildout his transition team and Cabinet. He recently identified several individuals in the education space, including former Florida Commissioner of Education Gerard Robinson. Most of his identified individuals are K-12 people and it looks like school choice is going to be an area of focus. There's not really much I can read about on higher education issues but obviously we will continue to follow and track that and be very engaged on a federal level.

Our federal congressional delegation remains largely unchanged, save for Brian Mast replacing Congressman Patrick Murphy. Our state level delegations have experienced some significant changes as a result of term-limits and redistricting, 66 new members are up in Tallahassee as we speak getting training; that is roughly 40% of the State Legislature so there is a tremendous turn-over at the state level. The good thing is that a lot of those people are moving from one elected seat to a different elected seat; for example Kevin Radar was a local Representative but now he is our local Senator representing this campus. We have relationships already established with a number of these members but we're going to continue to double down on our efforts to make sure that all of the new members in the Legislature are aware of what our priorities are and what we're doing to serve them and the community.

Luckily we are keeping a number of our great champions, like Representative MaryLynn Magar, who continues to work with us to help us advance our legislative priorities. We will have two new Senators in Broward County – Book & Farmer, new Senators in Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast – Rader, Powell and Mayfield, and several new House Members – Silvers, Willhite, Roth, Slosberg

There was a sales tax that was proposed in both Broward and Palm Beach County. Palm Beach County voters approved a penny increase in the sales tax, but Broward County voters rejected a sales tax hike. Palm Beach voters approved the 1 percent sales tax increase 56.5 percent to 43.5 percent. It will only count on the first \$5,000 of purchases. The penny sales tax in Palm Beach is expected to raise \$2.7 billion for infrastructure improvements during its 10-year lifespan. The money will be divided 50 percent to county schools for capital projects, 30 percent to the county and 20 percent to the cities. We will continue to watch how that money is broken down and if there are opportunities for us to identify funding and direct some of it here.

As we speak, state legislators are getting ready for the 2017 Legislative Session. After an accelerated timeline in 2016, the Legislature is returning to its normal post-election timing. The Session will begin March 7<sup>th</sup> and conclude 60 days later in early May. There will be 7 interim committee weeks between now and the start of Session. In the coming weeks and months, we will be providing testimony to several legislative delegations throughout the state with the help of our alumni, trustees and staff. Through a collaboration with Trustee Stilley one of our endeavors this year is trying to expand our footprint not just to the local legislative delegation; Broward through the Treasure Coast but in a state wide effort to expand the footprint of the University. With the help of the Alumni Association we're identifying individuals in major metropolitan areas that are alums and can go give a brief update on the University. We are helping them in preparing remarks and they will go and give a 2 minute update on what FAU is doing to the Orlando delegation, Jacksonville delegation, Tallahassee delegation etc.

There are going to be some new rules at the State level. There is a new incoming Speaker; Richard Corcoran and new incoming Senate President. They have both proposed a good bit of reforms ethics wise and otherwise. The House reforms are substantially larger than the Senate ones, the Senate ones are more technical in nature but they are still something we will be paying attention to. The format of legislative budget requests, the communication via electronic means between lobbyist and Members are all going to be under intense scrutiny now in a way that they haven't been previously. These are things that we are aware of and will continue to review to make sure we play within all the rules. Again, having really good champions within the body already allows us to work more easily than maybe those individuals who are presenting new ideas or new priorities. A lot of our priorities are renewals of things we've done in the past or continuations of some of our priorities but these new rules will impact the way we work in Tallahassee.

The budget is interesting at the moment, I will give a quick synopsis. State economists released new revenue projections on Nov. 14 that show the state's largest fund with a deficit, but it's too early to say if state lawmakers will be facing a budget shortfall one year earlier than expected. The \$32 billion General Revenue fund, which accounts for more than one-third of the state's annual budget, is projected to be down \$27.9 million in fiscal year 2017-18 after covering all of its expenses. It had a \$7.5 million surplus as of August, but additional emergency funding to combat the Zika virus wiped it out. The August number came from the Long-Range Financial Outlook FY 2017-18 through 2019-20 which said lawmakers faced billion dollar deficits in the subsequent years (FY18-19 - \$1.3 billion, FY19-20 - \$1.89 billion). Budget officials still have more than two dozen projections to make that involve other sources of revenue for the state. It will also have at least one more projection of the General Revenue fund before the 2017 budget negotiations begin within the Legislature.

Judging by the somber looks, this is not the kind of news that you want to report however it does highlight the realities of the state. It's not that there is not more revenue coming in, there is lots of tax revenue coming into the state, but population expansions quickly eat up the extra money that is being brought in to provide for education and health care services, and so the Legislature will continue to have to tackle those issues.

Our funding priorities. Again, the good thing is a lot of these are just expansions of what we've already covered previously. We've obviously have had a lot of traction and great success with the Jupiter Life Science Initiative. As Dorothy Russell pointed out earlier there's been a significant increase in the amount of state dollars flowing into the University, performance funding is the first and largest reason for that. In addition Jupiter Life Science Initiative has created a good amount of recurring revenue flowing into the University. We're going to pursue enrollment growth in the Honors College as a portion of JLSI, Dr. Flynn did a wonderful job in explaining why Tech Runway is such a good investment for the state and why there's big ROI there. Cyber Monitoring in the Kissimmee River and the Indian River

Lagoon has obviously been a very large environmental issue for the Legislature as well as the environmental community and agricultural community. Through the work of Dr. Hallstrom we will continue to look at both expanding the IRL network and also working it into the Kissimmee River Restoration and monitoring the entire watershed from start to end point. We think that will resonate with the Legislature as well.

I'll end with the fact that we've had a lot of great events on campus and we continue to do more and encourage you to attend. We've been very fortunate that so many people have reached out to us wanting to come on campus both for University focused events as well as hosting other individuals. As an example of that; in just two days November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> the Florida Commission on the Status of Women sought us out to host their quarterly board meeting and forum on financial literacy for women, this will take place at the Jupiter campus. We've recently been granted the ability to host a Legislative Delegation meeting in Palm Beach County on November 29<sup>th</sup> at Tech Runway, Palm Beach County just released all of their delegation meetings and we were selected as one of the sites. On December 1<sup>st</sup> President Kelly is hosting a Jupiter Life Science Update and while we've already provided the community with a lot of information, this will be a great opportunity to provide an overarching review of all that we've done around Jupiter Life Science and also celebrate the new Nikon Center of Excellence, which we will be cutting the ribbon on. Valentine's Day February 14<sup>th</sup> will be FAU Day at the Capitol. There are a host of committee weeks in February and it looks like FAU Day is going to fall in the second committee week and we invite all of you to attend.

This concluded Ryan Britton's update; he invited questions and comments from the Trustees and thanked them for their continued support.

Comments from Trustee Stillely: This committee has been up and established for about 6 or 7 years. The only thing I ask for Ryan and Stacy to do is to make sure that we as Trustees are reaching out also and are not just coming to these meetings but are also getting out in the community and participating in the Legislative updates even if we're traveling to Tampa, Orlando, Jacksonville etc.

Ryan: Another suggestion that Trustee Stillely had that I think is a good one is that we've got a lot of materials already prepared to present to the community so if you've got a group that would love to hear from you that you're a personal member of; rotary, country club or something else that you go to and they would like an update on the University we can often times pre-package something for you and have it ready to provide. Our office is happy to be of service in that as this goes forward.

Comments from Trustee Cane: Since there are a lot of local changes if you could get us a cheat sheet for Boca, Jupiter and Broward showing who the new Representatives are at the County,

State and Federal levels that would be very helpful; Ryan agreed to doing that. Another question I have is can you give us an update on where we are with Henderson being priority? Ryan: Henderson is and continues to be a priority. If there were two parallel tracks, Henderson is continuing to march on a different track and the reason being is the difficulty we've faced finding capital funding for Henderson which we're trying to deal with in coordination with the other lab schools in the state to identify a solution for permanent funding for our lab schools. Henderson is in this unique situation where there isn't a legislative pathway to fund a lab school. In the past they've either been funded by schools holding back maintenance dollars that they should be spending on maintenance and collecting enough of that to build a new building, which the need for Henderson is too great at this point to do that. They've also done it as one off projects from Members and in a separate section of the budget. Neither of those are sustainable and neither of those are ones we can necessarily count on, so the good thing for us but bad for the state is the University of Florida has a similar situation with their lab school. They have buildings that are on campus that are condemned and cannot use anymore, they have serious infrastructure needs.

Over the last few weeks and months we have been meeting with the Governor's staff. Joel and I went to Tallahassee and we met as a group with all the lobbyist and lab school directors to talk with the Governor's staff to try and identify this pathway. We think ultimately that the Governor is going to have to take a leadership role and say who does the responsibility fall on to find a pathway; the Board of Governors or the Department of Education. Right now the Department of Education owns the statutory responsibility but they have not fully taken responsibility for that. We're trying to find a way that is sustainable because although schools like FSU and FAMU don't have immediate needs but in about 10 years they're going to start having the same kind of problems that we have right now. If we can identify a path that fixes us and UF immediately and then creates a pathway for FSU and FAMU later it would be better. We're continuing to do that at the same exact time that we're pursuing the regular Legislative Agenda.

Question from Trustee Cane regarding maintenance funding.

Ryan: We get ongoing revenue to continue the maintenance and operations, which is a very small amount. Some of that money for example Palm Point which is the charter up in St. Lucie, some of that money we get is used to pay the debt service on that facility. However that still is not the methodology we prefer to use, it would have to be some type of specific PECO funding but not PECO funding in the way we create the PECO list. Right now on the list Henderson is down in its own category. There are certain schools in the state, schools for the deaf and blind and some others that get funded separate and apart from the other education institutions, we're looking at ways to do that but statutorily identify ways or at least for the Governor to identify a pathway in his budget but it would be capitol dollars to fund the structure.

Trustee Stilley requested a motion to adjourn the committee's meeting; a motion was made and seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved.