Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees  
September 18, 2012

SUBJECT: Minutes of June 25, 2012 Meeting

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve minutes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees met on June 25, 2012. Minutes of the meeting were kept as statutorily required.

Supporting Documentation Included: Minutes of June 25, 2012 Meeting

Prepared by: Executive Assistant to the President Barbara Krell

Legal Review: N/A

Submitted by: President Wilson G. Bradshaw
1. Call to Order, and Roll Call – Vice Chair Robbie Roepstorff

Vice Chair Roepstorff called the Emergency Meeting of the Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees at 11:00 a.m. Trustee Roepstorff asked Ms. Evans to provide a roll call. Ms. Evans provided a roll call with the following members present:

Participating in Person In Academic Building V, Room 309:

1. Robbie Roepstorff
2. Peter Cuderman
3. John Little
4. Russell Priddy

Participating via Conference Call-In:

1. Scott Lutgert
2. Douglas Harrison
3. Dorene McShea
4. Doug St. Cerny
5. Ann Hamilton
6. Ed Morton
7. Joe Catti

Members of Staff Present:

President Wilson Bradshaw
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ron Toll
Vice President for Administrative Services and Finance Steve Magiera
Vice President for Student Affairs Mike Rollo
Vice President for Advancement Rosemary Thomas
Chief of Staff Susan Evans
General Counsel Vee Leonard via conference call

Kathy Bottoms
Barbara Krell
2. Consideration of Appeal of Board of Governors’ Approval of a 12% Tuition Increase for FGCU for 2012-2013 – Vice Chair Robbie Roepstorff

Trustee Roepstorff stated that in accordance with the FGCU Board of Trustees Bylaw, we are meeting in an emergency session on a time-sensitive issue that requires immediate Board consideration. The specific purpose of today’s meeting is to consider whether to appeal to the Board of Governors its approval of a 12% tuition increase for FGCU’s 2012-2013 year – as opposed to this Board’s recommendation of a 14% tuition increase. Board of Governors “Regulation 7.001 Tuition and Associated Fees” provides an appeal mechanism, which President Bradshaw will discuss.

Trustee Roepstorff stated also, in accordance with the Bylaws, each trustee was notified of today’s meeting date, time and purpose. In addition, the meeting was noticed with a press release sent to the media outlets, and also through announcement on the University’s web site. The minutes of today’s meeting will include the manner and method for trustee and public noticing. She stated as a reminder, if any member of the public wishes to speak to the agenda item for today’s meeting, please see Kathy Bottoms to complete a speaking request card. Also, Trustee Roepstorff reminded trustees a vote on an action item will be conducted by a roll call vote.

3. President’s Opening Remarks – President Wilson Bradshaw

President Bradshaw thanked Trustee Roepstorff and thanked all the trustees for their willingness to meet on short notice. At this time Ms. Evans announced that Ms. Leonard is on the conference call while she is out of state on travel.

President Bradshaw gave an overview of last week’s BOG meeting, and FGCU tuition increase approval of 12% by BOG. He stated there was no consistent or systematic approach applied to 11 university boards of trustees’ tuition recommendations.

President Bradshaw provided the results of the 11 universities’ BOG recommendations:
- As you know: **FGCU**: BOT recommended 14%. BOG approved 12%.
- **University of West Florida**: BOT recommended 15%. BOG approved 14%.
- **University of North Florida**: BOT recommended 15%. BOG approved 13%.
- **Florida A&M University**: BOT recommended 15%. BOG approved 12%.
- **Florida State University**: BOT recommended 15%. BOG approved 13%.
- **University of Florida**: BOT recommended 9%. BOG approved 9%.
- **University of South Florida**: BOT recommended 11%. BOG approved 11%.
- **University of Central Florida**: BOT recommended 15%. BOG approved 15%.
- **Florida Atlantic University:** BOT recommended 15%. BOG approved 15%.
- **Florida International University:** BOT recommended 15%. BOG approved 15%.
- **New College of Florida:** BOT recommended 15%. BOG approved 15%.

President Bradshaw reported on the Board of Governors’ process for voting on each institution’s request. He stated there was minimal discussion when FGCU’s request came before the Board and that resulted in the denial of the 14% increase and resulting 12% approved tuition increase. President Bradshaw stated that the negative impact to FGCU students if 12% increase stands, would be instead of $215,000 budget shortfall in addition to our $3 million cut – we will have a $650,000 shortfall in addition to our $3 million cut.

President Bradshaw read the Board of Governor’s Appeal Process:

- BOG “Regulation 7.001 Tuition and Associated Fees: “If a university board of trustees’ proposal is denied, within five days the university board of trustees may request reconsideration by the Board’s Tuition Appeals Committee, which shall consist of the Chair of the Board and the Chair of each Board committee. The Tuition Appeals Committee will meet within ten days after the Board of Governors denial to consider a university board of trustees request for reconsideration.” President Bradshaw stated this means an appeal by the FGCU Board of Trustees would be due by 5 p.m. tomorrow (Tuesday) to the Board of Governors Office. He reported that the Chancellor has advised there will not be an appeal by the other 4 universities whose BOT recommendations were lowered by the Board of Governors. At this time President Bradshaw introduced Mr. Magiera to give a financial report on the implications of the 12% increase versus this Board’s recommendation of 14%.

4. **Financial Report – Vice President for Administrative Services and Finance Steve Magiera**

- Mr. Magiera outlined the financial implications of the Board of Governors action taken last week regarding FGCU tuition. He also answered related questions from individual trustees.

5. **President’s Concluding Remarks – President Wilson Bradshaw**

President Bradshaw stated he thinks it’s very important to note that the Board of Trustees’ recommendation of a 14% tuition increase to the Board of Governors was made after considerable discussion about the serious financial consequences that will affect our students if tuition is not increased by 14% this year. President Bradshaw stated that FGCU’s needs are great and our academic quality is at great risk. President Bradshaw stated that we have made the case for demonstrated efficiencies – despite 5 years of
budget cuts and despite continuing enrollment growth for access to higher education in Southwest Florida. He stated we do not have the reserves of our sister institutions, and if any university’s board’s tuition recommendation should have been approved by the Board of Governors, it should have been yours of 14%. President Bradshaw asked for the Board’s consideration of his recommendation to appeal the Board of Governors 12% increase in tuition and have them reconsider the 14% increase that this Board of Trustees approved last week. President Bradshaw stated this is not his decision to make, but rather per the Board of Governors Regulations, the Board of Trustees should determine whether we should proceed on your behalf to appeal or are you willing to accept the 12% increase and all that goes with that decision. President Bradshaw thanked the Board and offered to answer any questions the Board members may have.

6. Board Discussion – Vice Chair Robbie Roepstorff

Trustee Roepstorff spoke about the need for the full tuition request to meet the needs of our students. She stated that the Board of Governors offered comments that were positive about the amount of information supplied them in their decision making process. She then opened up the meeting for Board discussion.

Trustee Lutgert stated that it used to be that state funding was our main source of revenue and now that is not the case. He stated tuition is now the main source and it will continue to be. Trustee Lutgert stated it is an admirable goal to cut tuition, which is the revenue we get to run the University. He stated we are the most efficient University in the system and without this increase the fundamental nature of the University is going to change. He also stated that funding from reserves is not possible because ultimately we will run out of reserves. With only 12% we are not going to be able to meet our vision, mission and Strategic Plan. Trustee Lutgert stated at some point we need to prepare a position paper regarding our efficiencies and our short fall. Trustee Lutgert stated it is an outrage that the State will not treat our University the same as other universities. He stated it hurts our students, community and entire University and it is not fair. Trustee Lutgert stated he will be voting in favor of the appeal.

Trustee Harrison echoed Trustee Lutgert’s opinions and added his support for the appeal of the Board of Governor’s decision. He stated as a Trustee and faculty member he is deeply disappointed in the decision of the Board of Governors and the process by which they made that decision. He agreed with Trustee Lutgert that FGCU is performing in the top tier with successful key performance measures. He stated that if this vote stands it will change the fundamental nature of who we are as an institution. He urged Board members to understand that we are not just appealing the tuition but also making an appeal as a Board of Trustees that our decisions are to be respected and treated in the serious manner they deserve in governance of the SUS. He stated the devolution governance model is built on the cornerstone of our governance at the local level for mission critical issues.

Trustee Little stated he agreed with Trustee Harrison that even if you are in the negative on the vote, as a body I think we have to support the decision for the 14% increase and
support it vigorously. He stated he agrees with everything Trustee Lutgert stated very very strongly. Trustee Little stated he hopes we appeal and also put the issue of FTE and equity out front in our appeal. He stated the trends we are facing here are going to continue and we need to come up with new solutions so we are not sitting here a year from now in the same situation.

Trustee Cuderman stated he attended the Board of Governors meeting last week and found that there were not any questions asked of President Bradshaw after his presentation. He reviewed the structure and votes last week of the Appeals Committee of the BOG and believes going for an appeal would not hurt FGCU but could help us. He stated he is in favor of going for the appeal.

Trustee Priddy stated he is also in favor of the appeal in part to bring awareness of the inequity of the funding. He stated he also supports strongly the suggestion by Trustee Lutgert that we are going to have to in the near future have some discussions about what our mission is because this tuition funding is going to get tougher, not easier, as with state funding which will also get tougher, not easier. Trustee Priddy stated that we will, as a Board, need to reevaluate who we are and where we are going and what we are going to offer.

Trustee Morton stated for the record the reason he is in favor of this is not because he is in favor of any one percentage point because he voted in a negative on a 14% increase. He stated it would appear logical to some that he would vote no to appeal that, however, Trustee Lutgert made a very good point and Trustee Morton is in support of the democratic process. Trustee Morton stated although it was an imperfect solution, we arrived at a solution nonetheless. He stated it is critical we send a message to the Board of Governors that the Board of Trustees of Florida Gulf Coast University, after significant deliberations, did arrive at a decision and that decision needs respect and needs to be acknowledged and recognized by the Board of Governors for what it is. He stated as Trustee Priddy indicated, this is a great opportunity to bring to the forefront as best we can, the absolute disgrace of the funding of Florida Gulf Coast University from the state when compared with the other state universities. Trustee Morton stated that while he does not agree with 12% or 14% and thinks there are alternatives, this has to do with the independence of our Board and the state funding and therefore, he plans to vote in favor of the appeal.

Trustee St. Cerny stated he totally agrees with Trustee Morton’s comments. He believes we need to stand together on these ongoing problems or they will continue and only get worse. He stated he also would vote in favor of the appeal.

Trustee Catti stated he agrees with all the prior comments and he too will be voting in favor of the appeal.

Trustee Hamilton stated she also agrees with all the comments received and she will be voting in the affirmative.
Trustee Little moved to appeal the Board of Governor’s decision of a 12% tuition increase for Florida Gulf Coast University. Motion was seconded by Trustee Cuderman. Motion carried unanimously via a roll call vote. President Bradshaw thanked the Trustees for their support and stated an appeal will be submitted by tomorrow at 5:00 p.m.

7. Adjourn. – Vice Chair Robbie Roepstorff
The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.