

**New College of Florida Board of Trustees
Academic, Student and External Affairs Committee Meeting
Minutes for April 17, 2023**

In attendance via Zoom: Trustee Mark Bauerlein (Committee Chair) and Trustee Committee Members Grace Keenan, Charles Kesler, Matt Lepinski, Matthew Spalding, Eddie Speir, and Board of Trustees Chair Debra Jenks (Ex-Officio). Trustee Ryan Anderson joined by phone. Brad Thiessen, Emily Heffernan, and Maneesha Lal of the Provost's Office were also in attendance. Absent from the meeting was Trustee Christopher Rufo.

Call to Order and Review of January 23, 2023 Minutes

Chair Bauerlein called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Roll call was called. Quorum was established. The meeting was confirmed as publicly noticed.

Minutes from the Academic, Student and External Affairs Committee Meeting of January 23, 2023 were reviewed. Trustee Lepinski moved to approve them and Trustee Keenan seconded. Minutes were approved.

New Business

Discussion of Tenure-Track Candidates – Dr. Rebecca Black, Dr. Lin Jiang, Dr. Nassima Neggaz, Dr. Gerardo Toro-Farmer, Dr. Hugo Viera-Vargas

Chair Bauerlein said, "the next item listed in the agenda was the discussion of tenure-track candidates, but we've decided to defer that discussion to next week for the full board meeting. Nothing will change. We have the materials but we will ensure a good block of time in order to consider each of these candidates individually at that time. Any discussion?"

Trustee Kesler asked Interim President Corcoran if he had anything he wanted to say about the principles he was embracing in the memos that he has added to the files.

Interim President Corcoran said that as Trustee Bauerlein was saying we will do that next week at the full Board so we will have the full trustees and not just the committee.

Trustee Keenan stated that from what she read in the CBA, it needs to go to this next meeting; it was supposed to come to the last meeting. She asked, "are we sure that not voting on it in the committee will mean that it can still go to the full board meeting?" She wanted to double check since she knows that it was already delayed.

Interim President Corcoran said, "I think we're confident in the posture according to the CBA of going to the full trustees."

Trustee Keenan asked a second question: Again, from the CBA, her understanding was that only very specific documents can be included in the packets that are sent to the trustees. The memo from Interim President Corcoran was not she believed part of the specific list that can be included to the

trustees; maybe it can be included in something else. She wanted to be very diligent about what is and is not supposed to be included. She remembered reading about the specific requirements. Interim President Corcoran said they would go through all that and would let the committee know what posture we are in legally and maintained that all those questions would be addressed.

Chair Bauerlein asked if there were other questions.

Board of Trustees Chair Jenks asked if this was the issue that we had back in January when first got on the Board and we postponed the discussion. Interim President Corcoran stated that he didn't believe so, these weren't even signed off on, and he would have to go back and look at the dates. All the legal requirements of the CBA were not executed until after that. He said he was being judicious about how we describe it until we get to the full trustees. Chair Jenks stated, "That's fair."

Review of Regulation Amendments – Regulation 3-1002(6): Tuition and Fees Schedule

The next agenda item was to consider approval of amendments to New College of Florida Regulation 3-1002 (6) Meal Plan Rates, in order to update the rates for the 2023/2024 academic year. The proposed change would increase rates by 25% but would be covered for Fiscal Year 23-24 by a one time meal plan scholarship.

Trustee Keenan proposed a slight amendment to the proposed regulation changes, to clarify what is meant by the ISP meal plan. Currently this ISP meal plan is optional for commuter students, and it is also optional for students who have fulfilled their mandatory ISPs or been approved for off-campus ISPs. Having already talked about it with Vice President for Finance and Administration Chris Kinsley, Trustee Keenan proposed updated language to clarify that those students would not now be required to purchase a meal plan. VP Kinsley confirmed Trustee Keenan's comments and stated he had no objections to this amendment.

Chair Bauerlein asked if there were any other objections and then requested language for the proposed amendment from Trustee Keenan. The additional amendment language is, "The ISP Meal Plan is optional for commuter students, students who have fulfilled all mandatory ISPs, and for students who have been approved for an off-campus ISP." Trustee Keenan moved to approve this regulation with her amendment. Trustee Lepinski seconded. The updated amendment was voted upon and carried unanimously.

Trustee Lepinski asked VP Kinsley if he could confirm that funds are available to cover the proposed meal plan scholarship for all students for the 2023-24 academic year. Kinsley replied that yes, he could confirm that. He explained that this meal plan scholarship is the differential between the existing cost and the new cost up to the cost of attendance. With the very generous scholarships that have been extended to some of the incoming class, and with students having the benefit of other scholarships and other aid, this \$500,000 is the maximum amount set aside to cover that cost if it is a cost, but he does not expect it to reach that maximum.

Review of Regulation Amendments – Regulation 4-2005: Degree Program Planning and Approval

Chair Bauerlein moved on to the next agenda item, to consider approval of amendments to New College of Florida Regulation 4-2005 Degree Program Planning and Approval, in order to align it with BOG Regulation 8.011 Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings.

Interim Provost Thiessen stated that the proposed changes were simple updates to NCF's regulations in order to put us in compliance with recently updated BOG regulations. The BOG updated their 8.011 regulation back in June; this addresses how we internally and through the BOG approve a new academic program. Only additions and corrections are in Section (1) with an added purpose statement; Section (2) with updated definitions and New College terminology (Areas of Concentration instead of program majors); Section (3) with a step added to run any new program proposals by our accreditor, as required; and Section (4) addition of process to authorize other curricular offerings, including the process to approve certificate programs, minors (secondary fields in NCF terminology), and program tracks. This is thus a restructuring and fulfilling of BOG requirements.

Trustee Spalding asked if this meant we would now go by BOG definitions rather than New College previous definitions. Would students see areas of concentration going away? Dr. Thiessen said we could choose but this amendment does not change what used internally or externally; it clarifies to the Board of Governors what meant by area of concentration.

Chair Bauerlein asked a general question. As the Board considers curricular changes, he said he had been asked by faculty and some students about how existing students would be affected. Are we philosophically committed to grandfathering existing students through an older curricular program as we make revisions to the existing curriculum for incoming students? Dr. Thiessen said that accreditation standards require that if we have a program in which we have any active student, or if we are recruiting students actively into a program, we have an obligation to teach that program out. If we decided to shut down any program today, we would still have to get current students through. However, a teach out plan could, in an extreme case, in theory, be to send students to another school to complete that program. But philosophically and through financial aid dollars we are required to grandfather students through their programs.

A motion to approve the proposed amendments to Regulation 4-2005 Degree Program Planning and Approval was made and seconded. A voice vote was taken and the amendment carried with none opposed.

Review of Regulation Amendments – Regulation 4-6001: Institutes and Centers

Chair Bauerlein said the next agenda item is to consider approval of amendments to New College of Florida Regulation 4-6001 Institutes and Centers, to align with BOG Regulation 10.015 Institutes and Centers.

Discussion opened with Trustee Lepinski asking for clarification about the 30-day timeline [for notifying the BOG after establishing or terminating a university institute or center]. Interim Provost

Thiessen said these updates were solely to bring New College into compliance with the BOG regulation, which specified the 30-day timeline.

Trustee Spalding and Chair Bauerlein asked a series of questions about the process of creating a center or institute; whether reports or rationales must be sent from the BOT to the BOG; what the role of the BOG and BOG staff is in terms of feedback, advice, and approval; and when the timeline would start for establishing or terminating a university institute or center. Dr. Thiessen stated that the timeline would start when a center or institute was established or terminated, that there is an application that would be sent to the BOG as support information, and that the BOG regularly provides feedback and advice.

Trustee Spalding wondered if we wanted to create something, was there a process to get prior approval from the BOG before starting one and triggering the 30 days? Dr. Thiessen replied that it would depend on the nature of the center or institute; he would get the committee members a summary of that process.

Chair Bauerlein had no objections to approving these changes for compliance, but would like to have a clarification of the BOG's role in judging our decisions about curriculum, programs, institutes, and such. He asked what full approval meant in the statement that any State of Florida Institute or Center must receive full approval from the BOG prior to implementation. Dr. Thiessen said he thought that meant approval by a simple majority vote of the BOG. Interim President Corcoran concurred and said that constitutionally the Board of Governors oversees Florida's twelve universities. The funding is up to the Legislature, but the overseeing is 100% the Board of Governors. Full approval means a simple majority. A problem in the last 5-10 years was the Confucius Institutes. The BOG wants to make everyone aware that they are the overseers and approvers of any type of center or institute. Seeing a proliferation of them recently. The UF opened up the Hamilton Center, and FIU just opened up the Adam Smith Center. There is an application and approval process to ensure that they are in line with the mission of the BOG and the SUS.

With no further discussion, Trustee Spalding moved to approve and Trustee Keenan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Informational Report: Alternative Admissions Option (No Board Action Required)

Chair Bauerlein then moved on to the last item on the agenda, the alternative admissions option an informational report on students admitted under New College's.

Interim Provost Thiessen provided a quick summary. The report provided fulfills an internal requirement and a BOG requirement for an annual report on the status and number of students who are admitted but do not fully meet New College's admissions standards. For NCF, the typical reason why this would happen is if the student did not have all their language requirements met. The BOT had approved that up to 15% of New College's students could be admitted under this profile admit, this alternative admissions process. The report shows the number and percentages of students admitted this way, and what strategies we are using to retain these students and keep them on track

to graduate. For Fall 2022, 6% of the first-time-in-college (FTIC) entering cohort were profile admits, and 22% of the profile admit applicants enrolled at New College. The report provides basic data on these students and their success.

Chair Bauerlein asked what is the retention rate for those students and if that is out of line with the retention rate of the full population. Dr. Thiessen said that since we have small numbers they tend to bounce around. Profile admits over the past twelve years had an average 65% first-year retention rate; non-profile admits had a 82% rate, a lower retention rate than non-profile admits. In some years though profile admits had a higher retention rate than non-profile admits. He stated it would be within this BOT's purview to reconsider that 15% threshold going forward.

Chair Bauerlein expressed his opinion that the difference in retention rate is not significant enough to tinker with the 15% threshold. Trustee Spalding said the difference in retention rate is 17 points.

Interim President Corcoran said he agreed with Chair Bauerlein. Part of the issue is resources in the past and more recently. In the next fall semester, he said they would do a lot more in terms of having faculty be more active in advising, having more folks in the Career Engagement and Opportunity (CEO) office, would get with students and help them understand the New College Way and have success. Will spend money and resources and work on the retention rate for all students. We are the lowest of the 12 universities on that metric, or one of the three lowest depending on the year.

Trustee Speir asked if the committee could consider raising the exception percentage to 20%, to take more chances with more students with more of an emphasis on retention. Interim President Corcoran said he would take a look at that. This is the first new admission class the new trustees and the new administration is in charge of. To date think on pace to comply with 15%. He didn't see an issue with it today. Will report back about incoming freshmen class in terms of those numbers. Right now, at about 100 admits and acceptances and enrollees. Still a way to go to see what that looks like in terms of percentages.

Trustee Lepinski asked whether we tracked this same information for profile transfer student admits. It would be good to have information on both populations since transfer admissions are becoming a more integral part of our enrollment strategy. Interim Provost Thiessen said that we are not required to create that report but could. Even smaller numbers but it was worth a look. Interim President Corcoran said that we do know that our transfer students are generally on a percentage base more successful than our FTICs, having already been enrolled in school, etc. This is a more motivated population, because of finances and background; we have found them to be very successful.

Trustee Spalding wished to clarify that this is to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis based on the judgment of Admissions personnel. He assumed that there are general parameters that Admissions folk have and that it was not based on inappropriate changing of admission policy. Dr. Thiessen said it gives us the flexibility we need to recruit students we know will be successful at New College.

Chair Bauerlein asked about the language about admitting students who "may contribute to a representative and a diverse student body." He asked, "What does that mean?" Trustee Spalding said

he was trying to get at this question as well. Dr. Thiessen said it comes from the BOG language in our regulation, or it might come from our own; he would check.

Chair Bauerlein moved to strike that entire phrase, and end with that sentence that ends with “unique circumstances.”

Interim President Corcoran stated that he didn’t have an issue with that language as he understood it. This is bringing us into compliance with BOG. Not anything in that language that he would be concerned about in terms of student body.

Chair Bauerlein asked again, “What does representative mean?” He quoted, “The ‘alternative admissions option’ is an option for admission of an applicant who does not fully meet minimum admissions requirements but who has special attributes, special talents, or unique circumstances that may contribute to a representative and diverse student body.” It’s in the opening background statement.

Interim Provost Thiessen found the BOG regulation and read out the language from BOG Regulation 6.002 (2) (b): Under Alternative Admission (Profile Assessment):

These factors may include, but are not limited to, the following: a combination of test scores and GPA that indicate potential for success, improvement in high school record, family educational background, socioeconomic status, graduation from a low performing high school, graduation from an International Baccalaureate program, geographic location, military service, special talents and/or abilities, or other special circumstances. These additional factors shall not include preferences in the admissions process for applicants on the basis of race, national origin, or sex.

Trustee Spalding asked if we could just use that language as he found it much clearer. He said he thought this is what Chair Bauerlein was getting at and what he agrees with is this clarifies that [admissions] cannot be done on the basis of race. Interim Provost Thiessen said we would have to update our own Regulation 5-1002. We can make those amendments and bring that to the BOT for a vote. Interim President Corcoran said that he would see whether that is adopted in its entirety even though not written. He would check with BOG legal counsel and our own.

Chair Bauerlein stated that he was not as concerned about getting the retention rate above 80-85%. Given the demands of the New College model, we might reasonably expect a somewhat lower retention rate than at other Florida institutions.

Interim President Corcoran said, if we look at direct apples to apples comparison, because we are the state’s Honors college, if looked at Honors programs, we’re probably in excess of retention rates. We shouldn’t be compared to the entire university of 10 or the other 11. If did apples to apples, not concerning to us yet. Where it is disconcerting is when it’s not academics that’s causing a retention issue, and that is something we’re trying to address.

Trustee Kesler asked for when would have data on the incoming freshmen class. Interim President

Corcoran said that we had right now, about 100 students enrolled. We've gotten 150 applications and 150 kids admitted in the last few weeks. We're hopeful. He stated that NCF's admissions record was quite abysmal. If looked over last 20 years, average of 120 students as a freshman class to 249 record last year. Even the record is abysmal; we need to be up to 300-400 admits in a year. Obviously this transition has been highly publicized so that could be a threat to our admission numbers. We're very confident that we're on pace. He said they have gone to a lot of different unique venues. Doubled community college contracts for transfer students and reached out to a whole different segment of first-time-in-college students. We're confident that we'll have a good year. If follow tracking, little down from last year but picked up considerably. By May 31, we should be able to give numbers, scores, and a decent demographic of our freshmen class. And we're very hopeful right now.

Having recently observed the work of the admissions staff, Trustee Lepinski wished to commend their professionalism and effort and make sure that all of his Board colleagues are aware of the great work they have been doing.

Chair Bauerlein asked if there was need for a motion on this item; Interim Provost Thiessen said this was an informational update only.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

The agenda concluded, Chair Bauerlein reminded everyone that there was a Board of Trustees meeting next week, and that the accelerated tenure cases would be taken up at that time. He thanked everyone for attending.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Maneesha Lal, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs.