



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, March 23, 2021
4:00pm

Members in Attendance: Bridgett Birmingham, Ed Burr, Joe Camps, Andrea Friall, Renisha Gibbs (Vice Chair), Christian Hall, Nick Iarossi, Craig Mateer, DeVoe Moore, Leslie Pantin, Pam Perrew, Bob Sasser (Chair), Eric Silagy

Absent: Caitlyn Blake-Hedges, Dazi Lenoir

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Bob Sasser called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

II. Public Comments

No public comments were available.

III. Approval of Minutes from February 12, 2021

Dr. Perrew moved to approve the p minutes from the last meeting. Vice Chair Gibbs second the motion and it was approved unanimously.

IV. Disclosure of any Potential Conflicts

Chairman Sasser reminded everyone of the ethics policy. Committee members were asked to disclose any potential conflicts of interest. No concerns were stated.

V. Discussion with Search Firm

Chairman Sasser explained that the purpose of the meeting was to hear the search firms' updates and progress thus far; no prospects or candidates were discussed. He advised that the advertisements were placed on higher education sites, on-line sites, and in large city newspapers across Florida. Sasser further stated that FSU's rise in the rankings and the many other attractive attributes has yielded the FSU Presidency as among the best opportunities in higher education.

Alberto Pimentel updated the committee on the firm's progress. He indicated that they are currently reaching out to potential targets and assessing individuals depending on their interest in the role. The prospect pool is currently being created. Prospects are divided in two categories: non-traditional prospects are outside the field of higher education; traditional prospects are those in the scope of higher education like professors or provosts.

Governor Silagy questioned Mr. Pimentel about the effect the Sunshine Laws' open process is having on the interest of people seeking the position. Mr. Pimentel described that it is impactful. The full engagement of the committee's concepts are missed because information cannot be shared with them. The committee is not able to weigh in on individuals that have the most interest, nor give feedback to individual's suitability for the role. Individuals cannot be exposed in seeking or showing interest in the position because of the negative effect it would cast on their current positions. Alberto stated towards the end of the search, individuals will have to declare their candidacy.

Dr. Birmingham commented that the faculty have reached out to her expressing concerns regarding the timeline. With the semester ending and summer approaching, the faculty are worried they will not properly be able to engage in the process. Mr. Pimentel explained the timeline as follows: April will be reviewing, beginning of May continue reviewing and start vetting the candidates. Middle of May interviews will begin; toward the end of May, board interviews and campus visits will occur.

Mr. Pimentel stressed that this is an approximate timeline. Three factors can impact the timeline: availability of the candidates, restrictions due to the pandemic, and the committee agreeing on which candidates to move forward. Alberto stressed, the quality of the candidate's pool is most important. Since the search is an open process and most meetings will take place via Zoom, faculty, staff and students will have more of an opportunity to take part in the search and engage in discussions.

Mr. Mateer asked what committee member Mr. Pimentel would speak with regarding the front candidates of the search. Mr. Pimentel explained, those conversations are restricted at this point but currently the chair of the committee is involved. Mr. Mateer questioned, when the conversations would open to the rest of the Committee? Chairman Sasser answered, the conversations should open to the rest of the committee mid to late April. There will be more activity at this point, but with less public visibility; confidence and trust in the process will be needed. The strongest applicants will wait until the last minute to submit materials, yet there is no deadline. The position is open until filled. The search consultants were asked to build a high quality, robust pool of candidates regardless of timeline. Both in person and virtual participation will continue.

VI. New Business

Governor Silagy indicated that he updated the Board of Governors regarding the process and timeline of the search. Governor Silagy assured the BOG that a national search for candidates is being conducted.

Ed Burr commented that there is no predetermined candidate, and the committee will have ample time to review the best candidates that come forward.

Mr. Pimentel added, now is the time to send names of individuals the firm should be pursuing; call him directly with names and information.

Chairman Sasser stressed his confidence in getting good candidates due to the high expectations that are set and the hard work that is being done. A date for the next meeting will be set soon as possible.

VII. Adjourn

Chairman Sasser adjourned the meeting at 4:41pm.