



Item: CG: A-M

**COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, April 20, 2021**

**SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2021 MINUTES**

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**PROPOSED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Initiate roll call to document member participation, ensure quorum, and approve the minutes of February 16, 2021 meeting.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mrs. Mary Beth McDonald, Chair	___
Ms. Elycia Morris, Vice Chair	___
Mr. Brent Burns, ex-officio	___
Mrs. Barbara Feingold	___
Mr. Brad Levine	___
Mr. Abdol Moabery, ex-officio	___
Ms. Celine Persaud	___

**PARTICIPATING BOT MEMBERS**

Mr. Daniel Cane	___
Mr. Shaun Davis	___
Mr. Robert Stilley	___
Dr. Kevin Wagner	___



**COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

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**Action Agenda**

CG: A-M

Roll Call and Approval of Minutes for the November 17, 2020 BOT Community and Governmental Relations Committee Meeting

**Mr. Abdol Moabery (ex-officio) called the meeting to order. Roll call commenced with the following Committee members, in addition to Mr. Moabery, participating; Mrs. Mary Beth McDonald, Ms. Elycia Morris, Mr. Brent Burns (ex officio), Mrs. Barbara Feingold, Mr. Brad Levine, Ms. Celine Persaud**

**Other Trustees attending the meeting included: Mr. Daniel Cane, Mr. Shaun Davis, Mr. Robert Stilley, and Dr. Kevin Wagner**

The following University officials participated: Dr. John Kelly, President; Mr. David Kian, Vice President and General Counsel; Mr. Ryan Britton, Executive Director of Government Relations; Mr. David Green, AVP Development; Ms. Kerry Kruckel, AVP Development; and Mr. Steve Schmidt, FAU Foundation, Board Chair

**Upon call, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2020 CG meeting without change or correction. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Information Agenda**

**CG: I-1 Government Relations Update**

Mr. Ryan Britton, Executive Director of Government Relations, presented the item.

Mr. Britton provide a brief update on the university's government relations efforts at the local, state and federal levels to the Board. On the local level FAU hosted again Early Voting and Election Day polling locations during the entire 2020 election cycle and is now gearing up to host a municipal polling location for the City of Boca Raton elections on March 9, 2021. Despite the limitations of COVID, outreach efforts have continued along with engaging regularly with our elected and appointed officials. In just the last few months, FAU has hosted federal administration officials on our campuses as well as provided tours and informational briefings to newly elected members of the Florida House and Senate.

On the state level and Florida's upcoming Legislative Session, engagement activities continue on their regular schedule, albeit in sometimes a slightly different format. Virtual and in person Legislative Delegation meetings have been attended throughout our service area and beyond. Recently, Chair

Moabery, President Kelly, Director of State Relations Christine Shaw and Ryan Britton met with over 15 members of our state delegation and legislative leadership to discuss the Legislative Session and FAU's 2021 Priorities. There has been great support at the state level, but Florida is facing some significant challenges headed into the Legislative Session. In June 2020, Governor DeSantis asked all state agencies, including universities to hold back 6 percent of their state appropriations. The BOG then asked for an additional 2.5 percent of state appropriations to be held, over and above the 6 percent requested by the Governor. There is also Carryforwards 7 percent reserve currently held:, totaling \$25 million. General Revenue for the FY2021-22 budget year is expected to be \$3.3 billion lower between FY21 and FY22 (December 2020 forecast from state economists). This paints a rosier picture than the \$5.4 billion General Revenue decrease that was projected back in August. Shortfalls however, point toward a tough budget year ahead.

Governor DeSantis recently released his FY 2021-2022 "Florida Leads" budget recommendation. The proposal's total is \$96.6 billion. While this is an increase of \$4.3 billion over the current fiscal year, \$2.6 billion accounts for various expenditures related to the state's COVID-19 pandemic response and its impacts on Floridians. Gov. DeSantis' budget would restore the held back funds and instead proposes a 3% nonrecurring reduction for the State University System. While Governor DeSantis has offered a growth budget, legislative leaders have been more conservative and discussed the need to make budget cuts to balance the budget this year and responsibly plan for the future.

As part of the regular LBR process, late last year the Board of Governors approved and plans to seek legislative funding in three distinct categories – Performance Based Funding, Preeminent Universities, and the category entitled Universities of Distinction. The BOG approved systemwide LBR is composed of an additional \$20 mil for Performance Funding, \$75 mil for Preeminence Funding and \$50 mil for Universities of Distinction, which also includes FAU's \$6.2 UOD request for Applied Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Analytics (\$11.3 mil total: \$7.8 million in recurring funding, \$3.5 million nonrecurring). FAU also is seeking funding to finish the A.D. Henderson University School/FAU High School Replacement Facility, seeking the remaining \$17.3 million in PECO funding for this capital building project.

State revenue estimators plan to meet again in March, which will provide further clarity as state lawmakers continue to craft a new General Appropriations Act. A portion of the uncertainty at the state level is being offset by federal CARES / Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding:

- CARES I: \$24.1 million
  - \$11.2M for Student Aid
  - \$11.2M for reimbursements of refunds and to offset higher expenses due to COVID-19
  - \$1.7M for being designated a Hispanic Serving Institution
- Dec Supplemental: \$39.9 million (estimate)
  - Minimum of \$11.2M for Student Aid
  - \$28.7M for reimbursements of lost revenues and to offset expenses due to COVID-19
  - We will receive an additional disbursement based on our HSI status, but it has not been determined yet.

The White House and congressional leadership are currently working on a new \$1.9 trillion dollar relief package that was one of President Biden's campaign priorities. The new package would provide \$39.6 billion for another Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. While passage of this new relief package is in no way guaranteed, congressional leadership is trying to pass something by mid-March to avoid the expiration of enhanced unemployment benefits, which are set to expire on March 14. We continue to work with the APLU to coordinate our advocacy efforts.

- APLU Estimates FAU's HEERF Allocation in the new package:
  - \$69,612,541.99 – this is broken down into two categories:
  - \$68,495,566.29 (First 4 categories - 50% of funds must be used for student grants)
  - \$1,116,975.70 (Last 2 categories - 100% of funds must be used for student grants)
  - As stated above, FAU also should receive an additional allocation for being an HSI.

DACA and International students have been ineligible for the emergency student grants.

Lastly, the Office of Government Relations continues to work hand and hand with the Division of Research at all levels of government to help our talented group of researchers pursue their research goals. Recently, Dr. Gregg Fields received assistance in his successful pursuit of the Memorial Cancer Institute Florida Atlantic University (MCIFAU) designation as a Cancer Center of Excellence by Governor Ron Desantis.

At the federal level, we are in the process of getting ready for the FY2022 appropriations cycle. Our plan is to continue to build on the strong foundation we have established in several areas of research, and to capitalize on the new Administration's focus on the renewable energy sector. Our federal research priorities include a strong focus on the Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center, our Naval underwater surveillance work, Maritime AI and Autonomous Systems Testing, Aquaculture, Harmful Algal Blooms and weather monitoring technology.

Because of the strong support of legislative champions like Speaker MaryLynn Magar coupled with the good work of people within the Office of Government Relations- Constance Scott, Christine Shaw and Venante Laguerre, FAU have experienced success at every level of government. As an institution, we are moving rapidly on the path to being a Top 100 Public Research University. Our goal in Government Relations is to keep this momentum going and to ensure that events like the pandemic do not stifle our progress.

In closing FAU enjoys strong relationships with our elected and appointed officials and the Office of Government Relations is looking forward to continuing to work with this Board to expand these relationships and make more people fans of FAU. There are still challenging times ahead, especially as the state continues to grapple with budget shortfalls. The continued advocacy on behalf of this university and its priorities remains crucial to our success.

**CG: 1-2 Introduction of Interim Leadership for Division of Advancement:**

President Kelly, introduced David Green, Assistant Vice President for Development at the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine and Kerry Kruckel, Assistant Vice President for Development at the John D. McArthur Campus in Jupiter as the Interim Leadership for the Division of Institutional Advancement and the FAU Foundation.

**CG: 1-3 FAUF Endowment Performance Update:**

David Green, Co-Interim Leadership for the Division of Institutional Advancement and Interim CEO for the FAU Foundation did an update on the FAUF Endowment Performance since going to an outsourced CIO Model.

**CG: 1-4 Florida Atlantic University Foundation, Inc., Recognition of Ms. Danita Nias:** Steve Schmidt, FAU Foundation Chair recognized Ms. Danita Nias for her outstanding success at FAU.

**CG: A-1 Approval of Naming Elements:**

- “Myrna Gordon Skurnick Writing Nest at Theatre Lab”
- “Kimberly V. Strauss Tennis Lounge”

Chair Moabery invited Ms. Kerry Kruckel, Interim Leadership for Institutional Advancement to address the board.

Ms. Kerry Kruckel

Ms. Kerry Kruckel, Interim Leadership for Institutional Advancement asked the Board of Trustee’s Community and Governmental Relations Committee Member to approve the naming of the following University Elements:

- **“Myrna Gordon Skurnick Writing Nest at Theatre Lab”.**
  - The donor, Myrna Gordon Skurnick is making a blended gift of One Million Five Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,550,000) to the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters for a recognition opportunity to name the “Myrna Gordon Skurnick Writing Nest at Theatre Lab”. Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) will be given over five (5) years as a cash donation. The remaining balance of One Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,300,000) will be received as an Estate Gift. The gifts will establish the Myrna Gordon Skurnick Theatre Lab Playwriting Program and Creative Writing MFA Fellowships Fund.

**Chair Moabery called for a motion to approve. A motion was made and seconded to approve without change or correction. No discussion or commentary followed. The motion passed.**

- **“Kimberly V. Strauss ”**
  - Kimberly V. Strauss is donating One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), paid over three (3) years, for a recognition opportunity to name the tennis lounge within the Oxley Center the “Kimberly V. Strauss Tennis Lounge”.

**Chair Moabery called for a motion to approve. A motion was made and seconded to approve without change or correction. No discussion or commentary followed. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Chair Moabery moved to close Community And Governmental Relations Committee portion of the meeting.**