

Minutes

UWF Presidential Search Committee Meeting

UWF Center for Fine & Performing Arts, Bldg. 82, Rm. 224 Music Hall

September 15, 2016

CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair O'Sullivan welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the UWF Presidential Search process.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Presidential Search Committee Chair Mort O'Sullivan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Becky Luntsford to provide a roll call.

Present: Mort O'Sullivan, Wayne Ansley, K. C. Clark, Jason Crawford, Pam Dana, Athena du Pre', Rick Harper, Clay Ingram, Steve Kass, Scott Keller, Eric Kollar, Collier Merrill, Jay Patel, Steve Riggs, Bentina Terry, Christopher Thrasher, Garrett Walton, Pat Wentz, and P. C. Wu.

Dan Doyle, Jr. participated by phone. Clay Ingram was absent.

Chair O'Sullivan restated the charge he gave to the Presidential Search Committee on February 1, 2016; *The UWF Board of Trustees appreciates the Presidential Search Committee's willingness to undertake this important work that will lead to the appointment of the next president of the University of West Florida. One of the most important elements to this search process is that this Committee gather input from all the university's constituencies. That is why each of us was asked to serve as on this special advisory committee to the UWF Board of Trustees. This Committee was charged by the Board of Trustees to conduct an active national search to attract highly-qualified candidates. In meeting our charge, the Search Committee solicited nominations and applications from all interested parties ensuring a large and diverse qualified pool. The Search Committee was further charged with making periodic reports to members of the UWF community and to the Board of Trustees about the progress of the search which we have done. We have evaluated the applications and qualifications of each candidate against the criteria for the new President set forth in the Presidential Prospectus.*

Chair O'Sullivan explained that the committee's final responsibility per the Presidential Search Timeline was to, at this meeting, prepare a presentation of an unranked list of at least three candidates the Committee deems worthy of the UWF Board of Trustees' consideration.

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair O’Sullivan explained that time had been set aside to allow for public comments on matters coming before the Committee. He directed anyone who wanted to speak to complete a public comment form and provide to Becky Luntsford.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair O’Sullivan opened the meeting for public comment. He explained if a member of the audience required, a microphone would be provided at his or her seat. Chair O’Sullivan called the following individuals to the podium.

Lamar White; Allen Josephs; Ellen Roston; Marc Churchwell; Daniel Pace; Maura Little and John Krause made public comments.

II. DISCUSSION OF FINAL CANDIDATES’ ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS

Chair O’Sullivan stated that UWF had hosted four final candidates over the past five days, Dr. Frank Ashley, Senator Don Gaetz, Dr. Martha Saunders and Dr. Mike Sherman. He explained that each candidate had participated in Open Forum Presentations with UWF Faculty, Staff, Students and members of the Community; meetings and events with members of the UWF Board of Trustees; the Presidential Search Committee; the President’s Extended Cabinet and Staff; and events with Community Leaders.

III. SEARCH FIRM UPDATE

Chair O’Sullivan invited Dr. Jan Greenwood with Greenwood/Asher & Associates to provide the Committee with a final search firm report.

Dr. Greenwood thanked the committee the opportunity to assist with the UWF Presidential Search. She presented a leadership summary handout to the Committee indicating candidate survey results for each of the four final candidates. These results were compiled by Greenwood/Asher from the Survey Monkey survey that was made available to UWF staff, faculty, students, leadership and the community for providing input on each candidate following his or her interviews on campus.

Dr. Greenwood recommended the university secure another company to conduct a deeper background check on the final candidate.

IV. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair O'Sullivan reminded the committee their charge was to provide a minimum of three candidates unranked to the Board of Trustees.

Chair O'Sullivan stated that if anyone had the inclination to move all four final candidates forward, he would entertain that motion.

KC Clark made the motion to move all four final candidates forward to the Board of Trustees.

Motion seconded by: P. C. Wu

There was much discussion from the committee on the candidates and this motion.

Call for Question was made by Wayne Ansley.

There was no second to the motion.

Mr. Ansley withdrew his Call for Question.

Discussion continued.

Scott Keller asked Chair O'Sullivan if, for point of information, the committee could announce individually preferred candidates prior to the vote on the current motion. Athena du Pre' supported the idea.

Call for Question was made by Wayne Ansley.

Seconded by: Garrett Walton

Voted in approval: Steve Riggs, K. C. Clark; Wayne Ansley; Bentina Terry; Jason Crawford; Jay Patel; Pam Dana; Collier Merrill; Rick Harper; Dan Doyle, Jr.; P. C., Wu; Garrett Walton. Twelve approved.

Chair O'Sullivan stated there were nineteen committee members participating and the motion required a 2/3 vote (13 members) to pass.

Motion failed.

Christopher Thrasher requested an amendment to the motion on the floor. Chair O'Sullivan asked Mr. Thrasher to state the amendment.

Christopher Thrasher made a motion to amend the motion on the floor to require voting be done by paper ballot listing all four candidate names.

Seconded by: Athena du Pre'

Voted in approval: Christopher Thrasher; Pat Wentz; Eric Kollar; Scott Keller; Steve Kass; Athena du Pre'; Dan Doyle, Jr. Seven approved.

Opposed: Wayne Ansley, K. C. Clark, Bentina Terry; Jason Crawford; Rick Harper; Collier Merrill; Steve Riggs; Pam Dana; Garrett Walton and Jay Patel. Ten opposed.

Motion for the Amendment to the Motion failed.

Chair O'Sullivan asked for the Committee to vote on the motion on the floor to advance all four candidates to the Board of Trustees for consideration. He called for any further discussion.

Scott Keller reiterated the reason for his motion was Dr. Saunders, Dr. Ashley and Dr. Sherman should be advanced to the Board of Trustees.

Jason Crawford explained that members of the Search Committee had an interest to share feedback on the candidates and to advance three out of the four candidates. He added that moving all four candidates forward would take the voice out of members of the Committee. So for that reason, he said he would vote against the motion.

Those who voted In favor: Wayne Ansley, K. C. Clark, Bentina Terry, Rick Harper; Collier Merrill; Steve Riggs; Pam Dana; P. C. Wu; Jay Patel; Garrett Walton; Mort O'Sullivan; Dan Doyle, Jr. Twelve in favor.

Those opposed: Jason Crawford; Athena du Pre'; Scott Keller; Steve Kass; Eric Kollar; Pat Wentz and Christopher Thrasher. Seven opposed.

Motion passed.

Chair O'Sullivan stated all four final candidates (Frank Ashley, Don Gaetz, Martha Saunders, Mike Sherman) will be moved forward and presented to the Board of Trustees.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Luntsford, Recording Secretary, UWF Board of Trustees