

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Applicant Guide



Dear FSU Supporter:

Thank you for your interest in joining the Florida State University Foundation Board of Trustees—a strong group of dedicated individuals who believe in the transformative power of higher education and are passionate about FSU! It's been said that an organization is only as good as its people, and I am proud to say our trustees are remarkably accomplished individuals from across the nation who work closely with the Foundation's talented, professional staff to support and advance the academic mission of Florida State.

As board members, we not only give of ourselves financially but also by assisting the university's leadership, deans, faculty, Foundation staff and development officers. As trustees, we are ambassadors for Florida State, spreading the word about the exciting things happening at FSU as it continues to rise in national prominence. I thank you for your enthusiasm for the mission of the Foundation and appreciate all you have done to support the work of our great university.

With Seminole Pride,

Christopher Jansiti

Christopher Jansiti
Chair



About the FSU Foundation

The mission of the Florida State University Foundation is to enhance the academic vision and priorities of Florida State University through its organized fundraising activities and funds management.

The Foundation follows a traditional fiscal year, July 1 through June 30, and is one of nearly a dozen officially sanctioned direct support organizations of the university. The other major friend-raising and fundraising DSOs for Florida State include the FSU Alumni Association, Seminole Boosters, FSU Research Foundation, FSU Real Estate Foundation and The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Foundation. Each of these DSOs are separate, 501(c)(3) organizations governed by their own boards.

About the FSU Foundation Board

The FSU Foundation Board of Trustees serves as the governing body of the FSU Foundation, currently comprised of approximately 40 elected trustees who are advocates for the university, its colleges, programs and units. Our trustees are expected to personally provide financial support for the university and commit themselves to building successful partnerships with Florida State and its many generous supporters.

One of the ways trustees fulfill their financial commitments to support the university is by making charitable cash gifts to the Foundation of \$10,000 or more annually, and by committing to reach \$100,000 in irrevocable lifetime giving to academics during their service. At least half of this annual commitment should be directed to an endowment or endowments of the trustee's choice benefiting academic or student affairs programs.

Trustee Roles and Responsibilities

Our trustees are a diverse group of individuals, each possessing a strong and active commitment to the financial and programmatic advancement of the Florida State University Foundation. Our board members are entrusted with the role of ensuring the Foundation is governed effectively, and that the organization and its board have the necessary structures and processes in place.

FSU Foundation Trustees:

- » Serve as the ultimate fiduciaries in the oversight of Foundation fundraising, asset management and disbursement programs;
- » Are committed to the university's values and traditions as a public, comprehensive research institution;
- » Are FSU alumni or passionate supporters of the university;
- » Are devoted to continuing the upward trajectory of FSU's national reputation;
- » Possess a deep interest and commitment to the advancement of FSU through fundraising and asset management;
- » Contribute to the board's responsibility for governance, strategic planning and policy setting (trustees do not engage in the operational management of the Foundation);
- » Participate regularly in Foundation board meetings and demonstrate familiarity with materials distributed in advance;
- » Promote the university to alumni, prospective students, friends, donors, the media, the business community, elected officials and the public at large; and
- » Commit to making annual charitable cash gifts of at least \$10,000 to support academics and/or student affairs per year of service on the board, and a cumulative total of \$100,000 in lifetime irrevocable academic giving prior to the completion of a trustee's board service. Annual gifts during a trustee's service count toward the \$100,000 lifetime giving requirement.

Being a member of the board carries with it some essential responsibilities. The role is rewarding and challenging, but also brings many benefits, including:

- » Meeting with FSU's senior leadership both formally and informally;
- » Staying abreast of current events at FSU;
- » Representing the Foundation in the community;
- » Attending university and Foundation events;
- » Expanding your professional and personal network;
- » Developing relationships with fellow graduates from FSU;

- » Enhancing professional skills in leadership, teamwork and management;
- » Enriching the educational opportunities available to FSU students; and
- » Finding opportunities to elevate the university's reputation while increasing the value of an FSU degree.

Terms

Each trustee is elected to a term of three years, beginning July 1. Trustees can serve a second three-year term if willing and approved by the board. If a member serves as chair of a committee or an officer of the board, he or she can serve a third three-year term. Chair terms are two years.

Committee Assignments

Trustees serve on two committees. The board chair assigns trustees to one committee, and new trustees will be contacted and asked to choose their second committee from a list of available standing committees.

Board Meeting Dates

The board meets three times each year—two times in person in the spring and fall and once virtually. Off-cycle committee meetings are held virtually as needed.

Travel Commitments

Trustees who do not live in Tallahassee must travel to attend board meetings. In the spring and fall, board and committee meetings are usually held on Thursdays and Fridays, with a social event Thursday evening. Although the FSU Foundation works with local hotels to secure room blocks, trustees are responsible for making their own reservations and paying for their own travel and lodging expenses.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees, please contact Vice President for Advancement Relations Tom Block at (850) 645-3346 or tblock@foundation.fsu.edu.



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