

Meeting Minutes  
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.  
Program Administration and Economic Advisor Selection Committee  
Dean's Conference Room – FSU Panama City Campus  
Panama City, Florida  
November 21, 2017  
10:00 a.m. CT

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Don Gaetz – Chair  
Dr. Pam Dana  
Mr. Jason Shoaf

Staff Present:

Ms. Susan Skelton  
Mr. Scott Remington

Also present in the room:

Mr. Jim Muller  
Dr. Randy Hanna

Chair Gaetz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Skelton indicated all of those present on the phone and in the conference room.

Chair Gaetz noted that Speaker Bense was traveling, but had been briefed by counsel on the purpose of the call and had agreed with the proposed outcome.

Chair Gaetz said that the purpose of the meeting was to make a recommendation to the Board on the engagement of an Economic Advisor. He reminded the members that at the last full board meeting, he and legal counsel had been directed to proceed with negotiations to engage the services of Dr. Rick Harper through the auspices of the University of West Florida as the Triumph Gulf Coast Economic Advisor.

Chair Gaetz reported to the committee that since the Board had last met, Dr. Harper had indicated his intent to retire from his position at the University of West Florida to form a consulting firm. Therefore, the agreement will be directly with Dr. Harper and his consulting firm which will eliminate any concerns about conflicts in reviewing university involved projects or programs.

Counsel has negotiated with Dr. Harper and has prepared a letter of engagement for the committee's review. The letter outlines a proposed contractual

arrangement for one half of Dr. Harper's consulting time with the firm, proposes an annual fee equal to one-half of what Dr. Harper's salary would have been at UWF for a three year period, and indicates that the arrangement will be renewable and terminable under certain conditions. The fee, which was arrived at by taking Dr. Harper's current pay, and two future years' anticipated pay, and dividing that total amount by three, would be \$113,091.45 per year.

Dr. Pam Dana indicated that she was pleased with the contract and the possibility of having Dr. Harper as part of the team. She raised a concern about item "D." under "Scope of Representation – Economic Advisor Services" in the proposed letter of engagement, and said that her understanding was that the Board would select the Program Administrator and that both the Economic Advisor and Program Administrator would report to the Executive Director. The assumption would continue to be that the Board would have final say on all decisions. She proposed an amendment to "D." to represent her understanding of the Board's position.

Mr. Shoaf asked for clarification that the Board would still have final hiring authority on all positions. Chair Gaetz and Dr. Dana both agreed that that was their understanding.

Chair Gaetz asked if there were any objections to Dr. Dana's amended language for "D." There being none, the committee accepted the recommended change. Chair Gaetz then asked if there were any further amendments, questions or comments about the proposed letter of engagement. There were none offered.

Chair Gaetz then restated the recommendation of the committee to the Board that would be to accept the letter of engagement, as amended, and authorize Chair Bense to sign it on behalf of the Board. There were no objections to the recommendation.

Chair Gaetz asked those members of the public in attendance if there was any public comment. No one asked to be heard.

Chair Gaetz thanked Dr. Randy Hanna and FSU for the use of the Dean's Conference Room.

Ms. Skelton reminded the members that the next full Board Meeting would be held in Panama City, at the Bay County Commission Chambers, on December 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. CT.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m. CT.