

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Technology Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 27, 2026 | 6:00pm – 7:00 pm EST

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Call to Order

The meeting of the DSO Technology Committee was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM. The meeting was publicly noticed and conducted in accordance with Florida Sunshine Law requirements.

Leadership

Consulting Partner / PMO Lead/Neutral Facilitator: Chekesha Kidd

VP for University Advancement & Executive Director, FAMU Foundation/Chair: Dr. Brandi Tatum-Fedrick

Attendance Summary

Committee members, university representatives, DSO stakeholders, and invited participants were present, including representatives from the Foundation, National Alumni Association (NAA), Athletics/Boosters, and technology leadership.

A quorum was not formally established as this meeting was informational and organizational in nature.

Purpose of the Meeting

The meeting functioned as a kickoff and alignment session to:

- Introduce the DSO technology modernization initiative
- Provide project background and strategic context
- Engage stakeholders across DSOs
- Establish expectations and next steps

The committee was tasked with supporting efforts to enhance alumni engagement, improve donor experience, and increase institutional fundraising capacity.

Overview of Initiative

Leadership presented the strategic framework driving the initiative, noting:

- Alignment with priorities established by university leadership and the Board of Trustees
- Focus on modernizing technology infrastructure across DSOs
- Objective to improve coordination, reporting, and donor engagement

Key challenges identified include:

- Multiple, disconnected data systems across DSOs
- Inconsistent donor and alumni data management
- Limited visibility into giving and engagement metrics

The initiative aims to establish a centralized, integrated platform ("single source of truth") to unify alumni and donor data and improve operational effectiveness.

Scope of Work

Phase 1 Priorities

- Technology modernization across DSOs
- Athletics/Boosters engagement enhancements (time-sensitive)

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Core Objectives

- Centralize alumni and donor data systems
- Improve reporting, analytics, and communications
- Enhance user experience for alumni and donors
- Strengthen coordination across DSOs

Key Discussion Themes

A. Technology Integration

- General support for improving system alignment and eliminating data silos
- Recognition that current fragmentation limits fundraising effectiveness and reporting accuracy

B. Data Governance and Autonomy

- Members expressed concerns regarding:
 - Data ownership and access controls
 - Preservation of DSO autonomy
 - Governance structure within a centralized system
- Leadership emphasized:
 - Centralization is necessary for institutional advancement
 - DSOs will retain functional control within defined governance frameworks
 - Policies, process flows, and roles will be collaboratively developed

C. Fundraising and Donor Experience

- Initiative intended to improve:
 - Transparency in giving
 - Donor communication and engagement
 - Overall fundraising outcomes
- Acknowledgement that current systems may create inefficiencies and confusion for donors

D. Timeline and Implementation

- Accelerated timeline discussed for Athletics/Boosters enhancements
 - Target implementation: Early Summer 2026
- Members noted concerns regarding feasibility and integration complexity
- Leadership clarified that:
 - Expedited timeline applies primarily to Athletics
 - Broader implementation will proceed in phases

E. Process and Governance Development

- Need identified for:
 - Defined roles and responsibilities across DSOs
 - Clear data governance standards
 - Updated agreements (e.g., MOUs) between university and DSOs

Committee Role and Expectations

Committee members were asked to:

- Serve as representatives of their respective organizations
- Provide input on system requirements and user experience
- Assist in identifying gaps and opportunities
- Participate in development and validation of business requirements

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Actions and Next Steps

- **Immediate Actions**
 - Distribution of project materials and background documentation
 - Scheduling of individual follow-up sessions for onboarding

- **Committee Operations**
 - Establishment of recurring meetings:
 - Weekly on Mondays at 6:00 PM (subject to required public notice)

- **Project Next Steps**
 - Review and refinement of preliminary business requirements
 - Engagement with technology partners (AlmaBase and Blackbaud)
 - Focused development of Athletics/Boosters implementation
 - Continued stakeholder engagement and feedback

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 pm EST.