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FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
*Miami's public research university*

## **THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, 02 JULY 2003**

**BOARD MEETING**

**CONFERENCE CALL**

**(800) 621-5170**

**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**MIAMI, FLORIDA**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Henriques convened the meeting of The Florida International University Board of Trustees at 8:30 a.m., on 02 July 2003, via conference call.

The following attendance was recorded:

#### ***PRESENT:***

Betsy S. Atkins  
Rafael A. Calderón  
Albert E. Dotson, Sr.  
Patricia Frost  
Adolfo Henriques  
David R. Parker

Sergio Pino  
Claudia Puig  
Howard Rock  
Clayton Solomon  
Rosa Sugrañes

#### ***EXCUSED:***

Miriam López  
Herbert Wertheim  
Modesto A. Maidique

#### ***SPECIAL GUEST OF THE BOARD:***

Donald E. Lefton, FIU Foundation Board of Directors Chairperson

A verbal roll was taken by Chairman Henriques.



## II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Henriques welcomed everyone to the conference call, indicating that the meeting was called, in part, to review the tuition increases mandated by the Florida Legislature.

## III. ITEMS FOR BOARD APPROVAL

### 1. *Tuition*

Chairman Henriques noted that the Florida Legislature, during Special Session, mandated an 8.5% increase in tuition at all student levels. He indicated that the increase would generate approximately \$5.4 million in revenues for FIU. Chairman Henriques reported that the Legislature also approved an optional increase of an additional 6.5%, with the exception of undergraduate in-state fees. He noted that almost all state universities had exercised this option.

Chairman Henriques reported that it was the recommendation of the University to raise tuition as follows: non-resident undergraduate, 2.5%; resident graduate, 2.5%; and resident law, 3.5%.

Trustee Parker questioned the University's reasoning for not raising tuition in all areas by the full 6.5%. Provost Rosenberg noted that in raising tuition so drastically the University runs the risk of losing money because of drops in enrollment caused by an unstable international and economic environment.

The Trustees reviewed the fee tables and comparisons included in their agenda packets assessing the effect of raising tuition on FIU's competitive position both in-state and nationally. Chairman Henriques asked what the total contribution to the University would be if tuition were raised by an additional 6.5%. EVP Gallagher noted that an additional 6.5% increase would increase gross revenue by approximately \$2.5 million. University staff also explained the process by which the administration came to the recommended tuition increases stated above.

Chairman Henriques noted four areas of concern if tuition was not raised the full 6.5% approved by the Legislature. First, he noted concerns that if tuition is not raised an additional 6.5% the University may lose the option to do so in the future. Second, the University needs to continue to seek funding parity, and not raising tuition by the maximum allowed amount may send negative signs to the Legislature. Third, the University has the option of giving waivers to assist students negatively affected by the tuition increases. Fourth, there was concern that most other state universities are raising tuition by the full 6.5%. Chairman Henriques also noted that even if tuition is raised by the maximum allowed, FIU would still be nationally at the bottom nationally in tuition fees. The Trustees expressed their agreement with the Chairman.



Trustee Solomon, Student Government President, noted that there was a difference between tuition parity and equity parity indicating that only about 13% of the entire student body at FIU received Bright Futures Scholarships and over 50% of the student population was on financial aid. He noted that last year international and out-of-state students felt tuition increases of 20%. Trustee Solomon expressed concerns about the student population and of the University pricing itself out of the market. The Trustees noted their concerns regarding the burden the increase causes students. Trustee Pino recommended writing a letter to the Governor detailing the effect of raising tuition.

A motion was made to authorize an additional 6.5% tuition increase for all levels of instruction, except for undergraduate in-state tuition, as permitted by the 2003-04 Appropriations Act and that the University work judiciously to find appropriate ways to ensure the additional revenues are used where most needed, including more funds for student fee waivers and fellowships. The motion was MSC, with Clayton Solomon opposed.

A motion was made to amend the University's Tuition Fees Rule (Rule 6c8-6.010) to reflect the increases which were approved by the Board, and that upon approval by the Board the Board delegate the authority to the President to approve any subsequent amendments that are based on comments to the Rule received by the University in writing or at a public hearing on the Rule to be held after the Board's action today and to file the rule for adoption. The motion was MSC.

### *2. Fee Waiver Authority*

EVP Gallagher noted the University was requesting the Board authorize an increase in fee waiver authority from \$5 million to \$5.5 million to offset tuition increases at the graduate level. Chairman Henriques requested the increase be from \$5 million to \$6.5 million since the Board authorized the maximum allowable tuition increase. EVP Gallagher noted the increase was critical in order to maintain high quality in graduate programs and attract and keep high-caliber students for those programs.

A motion was made to increase the University's fee waiver authority budget for 2003-04 from \$5 million to \$6.5 million. The motion was MSC.

### *3. Adoption Benefits for Employees*

VP Telles-Irvin reported that the State of Florida, Division of Management Services, provides an adoption benefit of \$10,000 for parents who adopt special needs children and \$5,000 for parents who adopt children without special needs. She noted the benefit was available to FIU faculty and staff at no cost to the University; however, the University must enroll in the program before benefits are available.

A motion was made to approve the Adoption Benefits Program as provided by the Department of Management Services of the State of Florida. The motion was MSC.



**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was raised.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business, Chairman Henriques requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting of the FIU Board of Trustees on 02 July 2003 at 9:22 am. The motion was MSC.

7/3/03 TMV