



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FULL BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, April 18, 2013

*Start time: Upon adjournment of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Meeting  
Via Conference Call*

Listen-only Dial-in Number: 1-800-616-4018

**AGENDA**

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks  | Chairman Albert Maury |
| 2. Action Item                        |                       |
| AP1. Honorary Degree Nomination       | Cesar L. Alvarez      |
| 3. New Business <i>(If any)</i>       | Albert Maury          |
| 4. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment | Albert Maury          |

**Conference Call information:**

- This meeting will begin upon adjournment of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Meeting. *(The Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2013 at 3:00 pm Eastern Time.)*
- Listen-only Dial-in Number: 1-800-616-4018.
- If you are disconnected, please redial the conference call number.
- If you have any problems with the above, please contact the Board of Trustees office at 305.348.6495.

**THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

April 18, 2013

**Subject: Honorary Degree Nomination**

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**Proposed Board Action:**

Endorse Dr. Herbert A. Wertheim as a recipient of a doctoral degree *honoris causa* from Florida International University.

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**Background Information:**

The nomination was recommended by the Faculty Senate on Thursday, March 7, 2013.

The nominee was approved by the University President and Provost to receive an honorary degree at Commencement.

Florida Board of Governors Regulation 3.004, Honorary Degrees, provides that each university board of trustees shall establish policies and procedures for recommending candidates for honorary degrees.

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**Supporting Documentation:** Nomination Letters for Dr. Herbert A. Wertheim

**Facilitator/Presenter:** Cesar L. Alvarez, *Academic Policy and Student Affairs  
Committee Chair*

24 February 2013

Honorary Degree and Awards Committee  
Faculty Senate  
PC 225

Dear Committee Members:

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Herbert Wertheim for an M.D. Honoris Causa. Dr. Wertheim is well deserving of this honor for many reasons including his pioneering promotion of ultraviolet light protection that has saved the sight of millions, his dedication to medical education including the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at FIU, and his commitment to improving the lives of others through his many philanthropic activities.

Dr. Wertheim was among the first to publicize the link between ultraviolet light and cataracts and retinal degeneration. He developed the first UV400 lens tints that prevent UV-induced cataracts and founded Brain Power over 40 years ago. He has continued to conduct research and create products that promote eye health. Recently Brain Power scientists developed a spectral filter that eliminates or reduces photopically induced grand mal seizure in about half of the individuals who suffer from this malady.

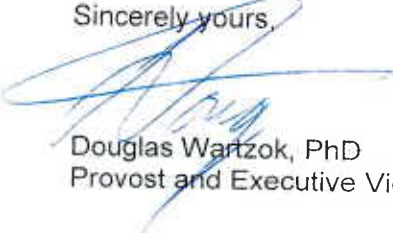
Dr. Wertheim was instrumental in obtaining Board of Governors approval for our College of Medicine. He is absolutely essential in the development of our College of Medicine. His \$20 million naming gift provides for eight endowed teaching and research chairs in the College. He continues to be interested in ways of improving the delivery of medical education and in determining how he can best assist in furthering the mission of our College.

Dr. Wertheim's philanthropy through the Wertheim Family Foundation has funded over 100 projects in the greater Miami community. Included in that total are a number of significant projects at FIU in addition to the College of Medicine including the Wertheim Conservatory, the Wertheim Performing Arts Center, the Wertheim lecture series in the College of Business, and one of the largest pipe organs in the Southeastern US.

FIU would not be the first to recognize Dr. Wertheim's civic and humanitarian contributions. He received the 2011 Horatio Alger medal in ceremonies at the US Supreme Court and subsequently established the first Horatio Alger Scholars Forum at FIU.

I believe in honoring Dr. Wertheim we will likewise honor FIU. Presenting this honorary degree at the first commencement of our Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine would be appropriate. Thanks for your consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely yours,



Douglas Wartzok, PhD  
Provost and Executive Vice President

February 20, 2013

Darden A. Pyron, Ph.D., Chair  
Awards Committee

Dear Dr. Pyron,

It is a distinct pleasure to write this letter describing the impressive credentials of Herbert A. Wertheim, BS, OD, DSc, whose distinguished career, outstanding accomplishments, and personal attributes deem him worthy of an honorary Doctor of Medicine degree "honoris causa" from Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine.

Dr. Wertheim has had a distinguished career in the practice of optometry and visual neurology, working with other physicians at the University Eye and Medical Center in Coral Gables, Florida, and teaching at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and the University of Miami's Department of Physics. Among his most noteworthy career accomplishments is the creation of Brain Power Incorporated. This company, which Dr. Wertheim founded more than 40 years ago, is now the world's largest manufacturer of ophthalmic instruments and chemicals, with more than 4,000 products sold in over 100 countries.

His outstanding research discoveries have helped prevent millions of people from acquiring cataracts or eventually going blind from macular degeneration and other degenerative eye diseases by using BPI therapeutic lens tints. He was the first to publicize to eye care professionals that ultraviolet (UV) light was the principle cause of cataracts and retinal deterioration and introduced the first preventative UV 400 lens tints. He and his teams of scientists in the United States and Europe continue making significant breakthroughs in vision enhancement. Their most recent breakthrough was the discovery of a light spectrum that will eliminate or minimize the occurrence of photopically induced grand mal seizures in more than 50 percent of patients who wear these specially designed spectral lenses. With more than 100 patents and trademarks already credited, Dr. Wertheim continues to create new products that enhance vision functionality, promote eye health, and help prevent blindness, and to present his discoveries worldwide.

I met Dr. Wertheim in 2006 when I was being considered for the Founding Dean position for FIU's newly approved medical school. Since then, I have had the pleasure of working with him at every phase of development of our new college of medicine. Dr. Wertheim's unwavering drive to advance discovery in his chosen field is inspiring, and he serves as an excellent role model and mentor to both medical students and faculty at the school that now bears his name. The FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine mission espouses "fostering research to discover and advance medically relevant knowledge," and Dr. Wertheim's life work exemplifies this goal.

Dr. Wertheim's visionary leadership has helped lay the foundation for our medical school, creating a lasting legacy. I hope you will confer this well-deserved distinction.

Sincerely,

*John A. Rock, M.D.*

John A. Rock, MD  
Founding Dean

St. Vice President for Health Affairs

cc: C. Delano Gray

**HERBERT WERTHEIM COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

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