

APPROVED
March 3, 2017



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC POLICY AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DECEMBER 1, 2016

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

The Florida International University Board of Trustees' Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Vice Chair Natasha Lowell at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 1, 2016, at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms.

The following attendance was recorded:

Present

Natasha Lowell, *Vice Chair*
Alian Collazo
Marc D. Sarnoff
Kathleen L. Wilson

Excused

Cesar L. Alvarez, *Chair*
Jose J. Armas
Michael G. Joseph

Trustee Leonard Boord and University President Mark B. Rosenberg were also in attendance.

Committee Vice Chair Lowell welcomed all Trustees, University faculty and staff to the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Vice Chair Lowell asked that the Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting held on September 1, 2016. A motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Meeting held on Thursday, September 1, 2016.

3. Action Items

AP1. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nominations

Committee Vice Chair Lowell noted that four candidates were nominated for tenure as a condition of employment, stating that the nominees were selected to receive tenure based on the caliber of

their work. Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton provided a brief overview on each of the candidate's work and research activities.

A motion was made and passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the four (4) candidates for tenure as a condition of employment.

AP2. New Program Proposal: Limited Access Bachelor of Science in Digital Communication and Media

Vice President for Academic Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar presented the proposed Limited Access Bachelor of Science in Digital Communication and Media for Committee review. She noted that the program is an existing major, within the Bachelor of Science of Communication and is being proposed in recognition of the changing communications and media environment. She added that this degree is part of the reorganization and evolution of the School of Communication + Journalism. She stated that as the current degree program requires a 2.85 GPA for admission, the proposed Limited Access degree will require the same GPA standard.

VP Bejar provided a comprehensive overview of the University's academic program approval process, noting that FIU terminated 45 programs from academic year 2006-07 through academic year 2015-16. She added that while decisions to close programs are not made lightly, they are needed to position the University on a positive trajectory in an increasingly competitive environment. VP Bejar stated that the total academic inventory consists of 194 degree programs.

Trustee Marc D. Sarnoff inquired as to how the proposed program qualifies for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) designation. In response to Trustee Sarnoff's inquiry, VP Bejar noted that the National Science Foundation (NSF) has designated certain degrees in digital media as part of the new STEM classification given the course work, concentration in the technology aspect of STEM, and the ability to manage and produce technology.

Trustee Kathleen L. Wilson inquired as to how the University assesses the 2.85 GPA as the limited access entry point. In response to Trustee Wilson's inquiry, VP Bejar noted that the Board of Governors allows for limited access designation when programs are of such nature that in order to demonstrate potential for success in the program, applicants must attain a GPA that is above that required for admission to the University.

A motion was made and passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend Board of Trustees approval of the Limited Access Bachelor of Science in Digital Communication and Media (CIP 09.0702) new program proposal.

AP3. New Program Proposal: Limited Access Bachelor of Science in Public Relations, Advertising, and Applied Communication

VP Bejar presented the proposed Limited Access Bachelor of Science in Public Relations, Advertising, and Applied Communication for Committee review. She noted that the proposed program will provide student's access to mentors and internships and will prepare students to work

in marketing and media sales and media management. She stated that careers in strategic communication with a global focus are in line with the mission and strategic plan of FIU and also address one of the gap areas identified by the State University System, adding that this indicates that there are more jobs in the state of Florida than students graduating with the corresponding degree. A motion was made and passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend Board of Trustees approval of the Limited Access Bachelor of Science in Public Relations, Advertising, and Applied Communication (CIP 09.0900) new program proposal.

AP4. New Program Proposal: Master of Science in Data Science

VP Bejar presented the proposed Master of Science in Data Science for Committee review, noting that the program addresses a critical need facing the marketplace. She added that the proposed program will prepare students for the global marketplace where critical decisions in every discipline are becoming increasingly “data-driven”. She noted that the MS – Data Science program will be a face-to-face program aimed at students with sound analytical skills holding a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Statistics, Healthcare Management, Management Information Systems, or related disciplines.

A motion was made and passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend Board of Trustees approval of the Master of Science in Data Science (CIP 11.9999) new program proposal.

AP5. New Program Proposal: Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Mathematical Sciences

VP Bejar presented the proposed Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Mathematical Sciences for Committee review, noting that all R1 Carnegie institutions offer PhD degree programs in Math. She stated that PhD degree programs in English and Math are foundational to research universities.

Trustee Leonard Boord inquired as to the University’s future plans on Internet of Things or machine learning offerings. In response to Trustee Boord’s inquiry, VP Bejar stated that the University is in the process of reviewing funding sources and appropriate faculty.

A motion was made and passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend Board of Trustees approval of the Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Mathematical Sciences (CIP 27.0301) new program proposal.

4. Information/Discussion Items *(No Action Required)*

4.1 Academic Affairs Regular Reports

Committee Vice Chair Lowell requested that the Academic Affairs Regular Reports within the Information Items be accepted as written. There were no objections.

4.2 Academic Affairs Special Report

▪ FIU Preeminence Plan

Provost Furton noted that in February 2016, FIU was ranked in the top tier of research universities in the nation - R1: Doctoral Universities – Highest Research Activity by the new Carnegie Basic

Classification, which he added is a leading framework for recognizing universities in higher education. He stated that since the R1 Classification, FIU has continued to make progress in research, adding that the FIU *Beyond Possible 2020* strategic plan identifies an institutional process for supporting preeminent programs.

Provost Furton stated that the University is driving its growth and academic excellence through a focus on achieving preeminent designation within the next five years. He added that Florida Board of Governors preeminence designation rewards high-performing state research institutions that meet 11 of the 12 academic and research standards. He noted that in the State University System only Florida State University and the University of Florida are designated as preeminent. He indicated that universities that achieve or maintain preeminent designation receive \$10 million in annual funding to their base budget. Outlined by the FL legislature, he mentioned that emerging preeminence is designated upon achieving 6 of the 12 metrics and that these institutions receive \$5 million annually. He described the University's current and expected progress towards meeting the 12 preeminent designation metrics.

In response to Committee Vice Chair Lowell's inquiry regarding the University's progress from 14 to 31 patents in 12 months, Vice President for Research and Economic Development and Dean of the University Graduate School Andres G. Gil explained that there are several factors involved in the calculation. He mentioned that while the average length of time for patent processing is three years, processing times may vary. He reported that the average success rate on patent applications at FIU is higher than the 75% average.

Trustee Wilson noted that unlike performance based funding that can vary year to year, funding for preeminent designation is recurring. Trustees engaged in a discussion on the Board of Governors performance based funding metrics and the University's ranking relative to the other State University System institutions.

5. New Business

No new business was raised.

6. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Committee Vice Chair Natasha Lowell adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 11:01 a.m.

There were no Trustee Requests.

12.08.16 KS