



**Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee
December 6, 2022
FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms**

MINUTES

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 Chair Natasha Lowell on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 9:58 AM.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee members and verified a quorum. Present were Trustees Natasha Lowell, *Committee Chair*; Cesar L. Alvarez; Dean C. Colson, *Board Chair*; Cristhofer E. Lugo; Chanel T. Rowe; Marc D. Sarnoff; and Roger Tovar, *Board Vice Chair and Athletics Liaison*.

Trustees Jose J. Armas and Deanne Butchey were excused.

Trustees Carlos A. Duart and University President Kenneth A. Jessell were also in attendance.

Committee Chair Lowell welcomed all Trustees and members of the University administration. She also welcomed the University community and general public accessing the meeting via the University's webcast.

As a follow-up request from a prior Board of Trustees meeting, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar referred to the handout relating to the definitions of class modalities at FIU.

Interim Provost Bejar indicated that at its November meeting, the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) approved public notice of intent to adopt a new Post-Tenure Faculty Review regulation. She pointed out that the regulation is a result of a 2022 Legislative passed Senate Bill, which requires faculty to undergo a comprehensive post-tenure review every five (5) years. She indicated that the regulation addresses: accomplishments and productivity; assigned duties in research, teaching, and service; performance metrics, evaluations, and ratings; and recognition and compensation considerations, including improvement plans and consequences for underperformance. She noted that the FIU Faculty Senate passed a resolution related to the proposed regulation and also responded to the BOG during the open public comment period.

Interim Provost Bejar remarked that on November 15, 2022, in partnership with the Division of Academic and Student Affairs, Student Health and Wellness, Student Access and Success, Florida Power and Light, and the FIU Alumni Association, FIU hosted a panel on mental health in

entrepreneurship, entertainment and hospitality. She added that the panel was created and moderated by Trustee Chanel T. Rowe.

Interim Provost Bejar commented on the \$10M naming gift from Mr. and Mrs. Lee Caplin to establish the Lee Caplin School of Journalism and Media within the College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts. She stated that the transformational gift is one of the largest donations to a journalism and media program in the State University System of Florida and will support a wide range of student support initiatives including student scholarship and financial assistance, enhancements to the curriculum, and capital improvements of facilities and equipment.

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Lowell asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on September 22, 2022. Hearing none, a motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on September 22, 2022.

3. Action Items

AP1. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-402 Admission to the University

Interim Provost Bejar presented the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-402 Admission to the University for Committee review. She indicated that the proposed amendment clarifies that University admissions criteria does not include preferences related to race, color, national origin, disability, religion, or sex. She explained that while this is in line with the University's standard practice, the language is being added to satisfy a BOG regulation requirement.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the revisions to Regulation FIU-402 Admission to the University, and delegate authority to the University President to approve any subsequent non-material amendments based on comments to the Regulation received from the Florida Board of Governors.

AP2. Proposed Regulation FIU-412 Undergraduate Admissions

Interim Provost Bejar presented proposed Regulation FIU-412 Undergraduate Admissions for Committee review. She explained that the proposed regulation details FIU's undergraduate admission requirements for First Time-In-College (FTIC) students, including the definition of FTIC students, documents required for submission, and stipulates that BOG regulations set minimum criteria for standardized test scores. She pointed out that eligibility for admission does not guarantee admission to the requested degree program and preference for admission is given to those applicants whose credentials indicate the greatest potential for academic success. She indicated that the regulation also includes information for admission of transfer students including applicable definitions, admission criteria, and specifies applicants who receive an Associate in Arts (AA) degree from a public Florida state college or university will be considered for admission without restriction, except for published University specialized admissions programs or programs with prerequisites which were not met. Interim Provost Bejar pointed out that students not meeting the applicable admission requirements may petition to be admitted through the Alternative Admissions process. In terms of said process, she stated that each applicant is accessed based on evidence provided by the

applicant and the academic unit to determine the individual's potential to succeed at the University. She added that the rates of retention, academic success, and graduation rates of students admitted to FIU through the Alternative Admissions process will be annually reviewed and presented to the Board of Trustees.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the FIU Board of Trustees approve proposed Regulation FIU-412 Undergraduate Admissions, and delegate authority to the University President to approve any subsequent non-material amendments based on comments to the Regulation received from the Florida Board of Governors.

AP3. Proposed Regulation FIU-414 Admission of Graduate and Post-Baccalaureate Professional Students

Interim Provost Bejar presented proposed Regulation FIU-414 Admission of Graduate and Post-Baccalaureate Professional Students for Committee review. She explained that BOG Regulation 6.003, Admission of Graduate and Post-Baccalaureate Professional Students, requires the establishment of graduate and post-baccalaureate student admissions by regulation. She pointed out that the proposed regulation outlines admission requirements for graduate and post-baccalaureate professional students and the process for applicants in need of a modification or substitution of admission requirements due to a recognized disability. Interim Provost Bejar pointed out that, in addition to the requirements outlined in FIU Policy 380.0443 Graduate Admission Criteria and Denial, additional admission requirements may be established by the College/School or Program. She added that the University Graduate School will periodically review said regulation to ensure unnecessary impediments to access are minimized, while maintaining academic quality and integrity. She commented that all graduate admission requirements and any changes are approved by the Graduate Council, Faculty Senate, and Dean of the University Graduate School.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the FIU Board of Trustees approve proposed Regulation FIU-414 Admission of Graduate and Post-Baccalaureate Professional Students, and delegate authority to the University President to approve any subsequent non-material amendments based on comments to the Regulation received from the Florida Board of Governors.

AP4. Florida International University Institutes and Centers Annual Report

Senior Vice President for Research and Economic Development and Dean of the University Graduate School Andres G. Gil presented FIU's institutes and centers annual report for Committee review. He stated that the University has a policy on centers and institutes that follows BOG regulations and was recently updated to reflect BOG changes. He pointed out that said policy designates the Provost as the University official responsible for centers and institutes. He added that evaluations of the centers/institutes are conducted by a committee chaired by the Senior Vice President of Research and representatives from the CFO's Office, Provost's Office and Faculty Senate. Sr. VP Gil added that review recommendations are submitted to the Provost for final approval. He indicated that the annual report requires approval by the FIU Board of Trustees and includes data related to expenditures for all centers/institutes, staffing, date of most recent evaluation, and reasons for any missing data.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the FIU Board of Trustees approval of FIU's Institutes and Centers Annual Report.

AP5. Florida International University Institutes and Centers 2022 Evaluations and Evaluation Summary

Sr. VP Gil presented FIU's institutes and centers 2022 evaluations and evaluation summary for Committee review. He indicated that the institute and center evaluations are formal reviews that are required at least every seven (7) years. He noted that 11 FIU centers were reviewed in the current year. He added that during said review, nine (9) centers were approved for continuation and two (2) centers were recommended for termination, namely the Engineering Manufacturing Center and the International Center for Tropical Botany. Sr. VP Gil noted that the functions of the Engineering Manufacturing Center are already taking place within the department in the College of Engineering and Computing. He presented a listing detailing the 11 institutes and centers that were evaluated and the evaluation criteria.

At the request of Committee Chair Lowell and Board Vice Chair Roger Tovar, Todd Crowl, Professor and Director of the Institute of Environment, provided a brief overview of the Institute's work and Christopher Baraloto, Professor and Associate Director of the Institute of Environment, commented on the status of the National Tropical Botanical Garden site in Coconut Grove, Florida.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the FIU Board of Trustees approval of FIU's Institutes and Centers 2022 Evaluations and Evaluation Summary.

4. Discussion Items

4.1 Student Government Updates

Trustee Cristhofer E. Lugo, Student Government Association (SGA) President, commented on increased student outreach. He remarked on the Meet Your Dean event where students had the opportunity to interact with their respective deans and on hosting a President's Round Table to develop a strategic plan for increasing student engagement. He mentioned that SGA's Recharge Late Night Breakfast provided free breakfasts to help students as they studied for finals. Trustee Lugo also commented on the Campus Safety Walks at the Modesto A. Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses.

4.2 Faculty Senate Updates

The Faculty Senate update was deferred to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee.

5. Academic Affairs Regular Reports

There were no questions from the Committee members in terms of the Academic Affairs regular reports included as part of the agenda materials.

6. New Business

No new business was raised.

7. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Committee Chair Natasha Lowell adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 10:32 AM.