



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**NOVEMBER 16, 2016**

**1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks**

The Florida International University Board of Trustees' External Relations Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Claudia Puig at 10:08 am on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms.

The following attendance was recorded:

***Present***

Claudia Puig, *Chair*  
Jorge L. Arrizurieta, *Vice Chair*  
Leonard Boord  
Gerald C. Grant, Jr.  
Michael G. Joseph  
Marc D. Sarnoff

***Excused***

Jose J. Armas

Trustee Natasha Lowell and University President Mark B. Rosenberg were also in attendance.

Committee Chair Puig welcomed Foundation Board of Directors member T. Gene Prescott and President of the Alumni Association Board of Directors Eduardo Hondal and thanked them for their service as liaisons to the Committee.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Committee Chair Puig asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 28, 2016 External Relations Committee meeting. Hearing none, a motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes of the External Relations Committee Meeting held on Thursday, April 28, 2016.

**1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks (Continued...)**

Chair Puig discussed the University's expansion efforts, providing an overview of past actions and possible next steps. She noted that the University will continue to work collaboratively with Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez, adding that a future meeting will be scheduled.

### 3. President's Remarks

University President Mark B. Rosenberg reported on how the University has been showcased as a key venue for political candidates. He provided an overview of candidate visits, noting that while the University is honored to host political candidates, it does pose a significant time commitment for the staff. He added that while the University does not control attendance, these events have allowed students that attended to experience the political process first-hand.

Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton provided a brief history on the University's patent production, noting that beginning in 1990 through 2015, FIU produced 30 patents. He reported that the University has currently produced 15 patents in 2016, stating that the goal is to reach 30 patents per year.

Provost Furton then provided an overview on StartUP FIU, which he indicated is a collaborative initiative for FIU students, faculty and early-stage startup entrepreneurs in South Florida. He added that the Empower Accelerator Program is StartUP FIU's comprehensive, 14-week program to develop scalable traditional and social entrepreneurship ventures. He noted StartUP FIU's robust speaker series and community events and stated that the StartUP FIU team will also be opening a tech-focused incubator in Kendall's West End and a food incubator at the Biscayne Bay campus. He added that for next fall, StartUP FIU plans to power the College of Communication, Architecture + the Arts' Ratcliffe Art + Design Incubator at the Biscayne Bay campus.

Provost Furton noted that growth in patent production directly responds to FIU *Beyond Possible 2020* metrics and also addresses the Board of Governor's performance metric related to Bachelor's degrees in strategic areas as most patent production comes from engineering and science fields. He added that emphasis in these areas should attract more students to those fields.

Trustee Leonard Boord congratulated StartUP FIU's efforts, noting that he attended the StartUP Innovation Showcase event held on November 15 and was impressed at the level of enthusiasm and interest. Mr. Eduardo Hondal noted that on December 7, the FIU Alumni Association would be partnering with the Harvard Business Club of South Florida for a StartUP FIU-themed event.

Vice Chair Jorge L. Arrizurieta requested to be more informed regarding the University's expansion efforts and encouraged the University's leadership to engage in a more strategic and increased dialogue with the Board members. Chair Puig noted that, while she is the spokesperson for the Board, it was acceptable for Board members to reach out to Mayor Gimenez regarding the University's expansion efforts. She added that prior to such contact, Trustees should be appropriately briefed and informed by University administration.

Chair Puig requested that Trustee workshops be scheduled in order to engage in substantive review of Board of Governors (BOG) performance metrics and also to become more immersed in the University's expansion efforts. Additionally, Chair Puig requested, at a future meeting of the Board, the opportunity to define University priorities and a review of best practices from the BOG as it relates to board of trustees' roles and responsibilities.

Chair Puig urged Trustees to participate in FIU Day on March 21, 2017.

#### **4. Information/Discussion Items**

Chair Puig requested to take the agenda out of order. There were no objections.

##### **4.1 FIU in DC Update**

Vice President for Governmental Relations Michelle L. Palacio and Assistant Vice President of Federal Relations Carlos A. Becerra provided an FIU in DC Update. VP Palacio reported that since the opening of FIU in DC in the first quarter of operations, FIU has hosted and produced 29 events, hosting over 800 individuals and key federal officials at briefings or conferences highlighting FIU research strengths. Mr. Becerra noted that this year, FIU has increased the direct placement of interns and alumni in permanent jobs by 166%, adding that FIU in DC supported 78 interns and 64 visiting students.

Chair Puig and Vice Chair Arrizurieta discussed their respective visits to the FIU in DC office, commending the efforts and hard work that has yielded such positive outcomes over the past year.

##### **4.2 2017 Legislative Session**

VP Palacio provided an overview of the 2017 Legislative Priorities, noting that the majority of FIU's priorities are the same as the prior year. She noted that because most of last year's funding was non-recurring, it is critically important to advocate for additional funds during the upcoming legislative session.

##### **4.3 Update on Advocacy Initiative**

*This update was deferred to a later meeting.*

##### **4.4 TEDxFIU**

Senior Vice President of External Relations Sandra B. Gonzalez-Levy noted that the fifth annual TEDxFIU will take place later in the day. She noted, that this year's speakers include five alumni, three faculty, and one student.

##### **4.5 Update on the Coverage of the Political Polls**

Sr. VP Gonzalez-Levy introduced Dr. Eduardo Gamarra, Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations in the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, and asked that he present his findings of the Latino public opinion poll that was conducted prior to the November presidential election. Professor Gamarra stated that the objective of the public opinion forum was to fill the gap with relation to Latinos in Florida and in the United States. He noted that the tracker began on April 11, 2016 with consecutive daily tracking that polled only Latinos until Election Day. Garnering sample sizes of 40,000 per week, he reported that the future of polling will be through technology. He added that FIU has been recognized as #4 nationwide in terms of top polling of the Latino community.

Trustee Sarnoff inquired as to the technology used to poll. Professor Gamarra noted that this was not an online polling platform. He added that individuals were polled electronically and needed to volunteer in order to participate. He stated that individuals could only answer once because their participation was linked to a unique IP address.

**4.6 Fostering Panther Pride**

*This update was deferred to a later meeting.*

**5. New Business**

*No new business was raised.*

**6. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**

With no other business, Committee Chair Claudia Puig adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees External Relations Committee on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 11:42 am.

<b><i>Trustee Requests</i></b>	<b><i>Follow-up</i></b>	<b><i>Completion Date</i></b>
<i>1. Trustees requested a yearly progress report over the next five years that details the evolution and advantages of FIU's presence in DC.</i>	<i>Vice President for Governmental Relations Michelle L. Palacio</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>2. Chair Puig requested that Trustee workshops be scheduled in order to engage in substantive review of Board of Governors (BOG) performance metrics and also to become more immersed on the University's expansion efforts. Additionally, Chair Puig requested, at a future meeting of the Board, the opportunity to define University priorities and a review of best practices from the BOG as it relates to board of trustees' roles and responsibilities.</i>	<i>University Administration</i>	<i>2017</i>