



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JUNE 1, 2017

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 11:34 a.m. on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, College of Business Complex, Special Events Center, Room 233.

The following attendance was recorded:

Present

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

Excused

Jose J. Armas
Michael G. Joseph

Trustees Dean C. Colson, Natasha Lowell, Krista M. Schmidt, and Kathleen L. Wilson also attended.

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

Committee Chair Puig welcomed Trustees Dean C. Colson and Krista M. Schmidt to the Board of Trustees, noting that she looked forward to collaborating with the newly appointed Board members.

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Puig asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 16, 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 Wednesday, November 16, 2016.

3. President's Remarks

Item was deferred to the next regularly scheduled Committee meeting.

4. Information/Discussion Items

4.1 Update on Governmental Relations

Vice President of Governmental Relations Michelle L. Palacio thanked the Board members for their continued efforts in advocating for the legislative priorities of the University. She reported on the 2017 legislative session and provided an overview of the FIU initiatives and projects that were funded in the State Budget. VP Palacio stated that the budget process had not yet been finalized, explaining that Governor Rick Scott has 15 days to act upon the budget he received on May 31, 2017.

VP Palacio mentioned that FIU was honored to have been the first University visited by the United States Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. She noted that Secretary DeVos toured the Star Center in the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences and met with President Rosenberg, members of the Board of Trustees, faculty, and students. VP Palacio reported that FIU in D.C. hosted United States Secretary of Labor R. Alexander Acosta, on May 22, 2017 and welcomed FIU alumni serving in the Trump administration. She explained that on June 15, 2017, FIU will host a State Department ministerial meeting with Central American Presidents and dignitaries. The meeting is expected to include Vice President of the United States Mike Pence, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, and United States Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly.

VP Palacio commented that one of FIU's priorities has been to reinstate yearlong Pell Grant funding, including summer. She added that summer Pell grants were included in this year's continuing resolution approved in April 2017.

VP Palacio provided end of session highlights for new funding, renewed funding, potential appropriation reductions, and need based financial aid and scholarships. She added that as it relates to renewed funding, the Florida House of Representatives opened recurring funding from University based budgets to increase transparency. Regarding substantive legislation, she mentioned that universities will be required to include a block tuition option, which must be available to students entering in the fall 2018 cohort. VP Palacio also highlighted the statutory amendments regarding appointments to the board of directors of direct support organizations (DSOs) by the chairs of university boards of trustees.

VP Palacio stated that in an April 13, 2017 communication to College and University Presidents, Trustees, and the Florida Board of Governors, Governor Rick Scott requested that each Board discuss six topics at its next meeting. She reported that the six topics are the following: employment demand, post-graduation employment, state funding investments, return on investment, four year graduation, and new internship programs.

Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton provided an overview on the topics discussed in the Governor's letter. Provost Furton highlighted that over 80% of FIU's graduates have remained in Florida and have a major impact on Florida's economy. He noted that FIU continues to excel in providing students with meaningful practicum opportunities. Provost Furton stated that Governor Scott challenged all universities to look at its top two degree producing

programs and to improve dramatically the employment rate with a goal of 100%. Provost Furton noted that FIU's top two degrees might vary from year to year, stating that currently, the top five degrees are: Business Administration, Psychology, Hospitality, Biology, and Criminal Justice. He mentioned that FIU is in the process of realigning the career services office with academic advising, adding that both will be centralized within the Division of Academic Affairs.

Trustee Marc C. Sarnoff inquired as to the employment opportunities for students that hold a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and what steps is the University putting in place. In response to Trustee Sarnoff's inquiry, Committee Chair Puig indicated that Psychology is the top graduating degree in the State of Florida, but the job market does not support career opportunities for graduates with a Bachelor's in Psychology.

Trustees engaged in a robust discussion on the plan for academic advisors to become more active and being advising students earlier to ensure better outcomes. Provost Furton stated that FIU is focused on ensuring the employability of its graduates.

Provost Furton noted that the University will be launching a new campaign "Think 30". He added that FIU will be focusing its efforts so the students are aware that they need to complete 30 credits a year in order to graduate in four years.

4.2 Update on External Relations

Senior Vice President of External Relations Sandra B. Gonzalez-Levy provided an update on initiatives and upcoming events. She stated that TEDxFIU, now entering its sixth year, will take place on November 16th.

Sr. VP Gonzalez-Levy provided an update on the University's Fostering Panther Pride, an innovative program that offers tailored academic and support services to students identified as formerly in foster care or homeless. She reported that the University's President's Council led a fundraising effort in benefit of Fostering Panther Pride that resulted in a total of \$ 285,000. She added that Steve Marin, Jr. an FIU freshman, honors college student, and member of Sigma Chi, secured \$50,000 in donations for Fostering Panther Pride. Sr. VP Gonzalez-Levy provided an update on the fourth annual eMerge Americas Conference that will be taking place on June 12 -13, 2017. President Mark B. Rosenberg will be a keynote speaker, and FIU will showcase the university's latest research.

Trustees Jorge L. Arrizurieta and Natasha Lowell congratulated the University's Governmental Relations team on the achievements despite the challenging session.

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 Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 12:26 p.m.

KS 6.13.17