



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**JUNE 2, 2017**

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

The Florida International University Board of Trustees' Health Affairs Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Jose J. Armas at 10:44 a.m. on Friday, June 2, 2017 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, College of Business Complex, Special Events Center, room 233.

The following attendance was recorded:

***Present***

Jose J. Armas, *Chair*  
Cesar L. Alvarez  
Jorge L. Arrizurieta  
Leonard Boord  
Michael G. Joseph

***Excused***

Justo L. Pozo, *Vice Chair*

Board Chair Claudia Puig, Trustees Dean C. Colson, Natasha Lowell, Krista M. Schmidt, and Kathleen L. Wilson, and University President Mark B. Rosenberg also were in attendance.

Committee Chair Armas welcomed all Trustees and University faculty and staff to the meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Committee Chair Armas asked that the Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting held on December 1, 2016. A motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes of the Health Affairs Committee Meeting held on Thursday, December 1, 2016.

**3. Academic Health Center Reports** (*No Action Required*)

**3.1 General Update**

Founding Dean and Senior Vice President for Health Affairs John A. Rock noted that in the current legislative session, the Board of Governors submitted a legislative budget request for 64 fulltime equivalents of mental health professionals and support staff for mental health counseling services for five state universities. He noted that FIU requested nine positions, roughly a 44% increase and that the referenced request was not approved for any of the state universities. He mentioned that

since then, the FIU HealthCare Network has been in the process of hiring two fulltime psychiatrists. Sr. VP Rock noted that Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) also is recruiting two additional psychologists. He added that the University has been proactive in recruiting additional mental health professionals to enhance access to behavioral counseling and promote mental wellness for FIU students.

Sr. VP Rock explained that the State University System of Florida established the Florida Academic Healthcare Patient Safety Organization (FAH-PSO) in 2014 to create a confidential forum to identify and address patient safety issues in clinical practices within the State University System. He stated that the FAH-PSO utilizes focus work groups that include subject matter experts in a series of confidential convening sessions and that the analysis and recommendations of the workgroups are shared with members to assist them in improving patient care. He noted that the FAH-PSO identifies areas of need-based challenges that are recognized by reported incidents in national or state trends.

Trustee Kathleen L. Wilson stated that the CAPS staff saw a total of 2,861 students in 2017, which is an increase of 12.7 % over the previous year, while the Victim Empowerment Program (VEP) saw a total of 396 students, which is up 148% over the previous year. She noted that the International Association for Counseling recommends one counselor for every 1,000 to 1,500 students, indicating that the University has one counselor for every 2,449 students, which, as she stated, is the highest ratio in the State University System. Trustee Wilson recommended that the University review the issue further in order to ensure that there are an adequate number of professional staff members to meet the clinical needs of the students.

In response to Trustee Wilson's recommendation, Committee Chair Armas explained that this issue is under review by the State University System and a sense of urgency has been created.

### **3.2 Biomedical Engineering**

Chair of Biomedical Engineering and Professor of the College of Engineering and Computing Dr. Ranu Jung provided an overview of the College of Engineering and Computing and also on the Biomedical Engineering Program (BME). She noted that out of 358 colleges and universities, FIU's Biomedical Engineering program is ranked number one in (BME) Bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanic students, number seven in (BME) Bachelor's degrees awarded to African-American students, and number 59 in (BME) Bachelor's degrees awarded overall.

Dr. Jung presented a video and then facilitated a demonstration of the neural-enabled prosthetic hand system (NEPH) technology that she and the Adaptive Neural Systems Laboratory team developed. She stated that the NEPH stimulates nerves in the arm to provide sensation as a person is using the prosthetic hand. She reported that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) just approved the first-in-human trial of this investigational system.

Trustee Leonard Boord inquired as to the infrastructure and funding implications of the National Science Foundation (NSF) designation as an engineering research center. Dr. Jung noted that the NSF currently is conducting site visits at the University, evaluating new innovative technologies

aimed at improving health and detecting disease: point of care devices that diagnose disease in low resource settings, specifically Florida, Texas, and California; Bioprinting technology, and Bioelectronic medicine.

Vice President for Research and Economic Development Andres G. Gil stated that FIU currently has an engineering research center grant that focuses on diagnostic devices, adding that partnership with industry is a major component of engineering research centers.

Dr. Jung noted that FIU submitted eight proposals and three are under consideration.

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

Committee Chair Armas requested that the reports within the Information Items be accepted as written. There were no objections.

**5. New Business**

*No new business was raised.*

**6. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**

With no other business, Committee Chair Jose J. Armas adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Health Affairs Committee on Friday, June 2, 2017 at 11:23 a.m.

*KS June 14, 2017*