



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**ACADEMIC POLICY AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**DECEMBER 8, 2017**

**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 Cesar L. Alvarez at 10:10 a.m. on Friday, December 8, 2017, at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms.

The following attendance was recorded:

***Present***

Cesar L. Alvarez, *Chair (by phone)*  
Natasha Lowell, *Vice Chair*  
Dean C. Colson  
Michael J. Joseph  
Marc D. Sarnoff  
Krista M. Schmidt  
Kathleen L. Wilson

***Excused***

Jose J. Armas

Board Chair Claudia Puig, Board Vice Chair Jorge L. Arrizurieta, Trustee Leonard Boord, and University President Mark B. Rosenberg were also in attendance.

Committee Chair Alvarez welcomed all Trustees, and University faculty and staff to the meeting. He sent his regrets as he was unable to attend in person and thanked Vice Chair Natasha Lowell for chairing the Committee's meeting.

Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton provided several administrative updates including the appointment of Dr. Kevin Coughlin, Jr. as Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management and Services, Dr. Juan Carlos Espinosa as Interim Dean of the Honors College, and Dr. Michael Cheng as Interim Dean of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. He reported that following a decade of path-breaking leadership and program initiatives, Founding Dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and Senior Vice President for Health Affairs Dr. John A. Rock will step down once a new dean is selected and in place. Provost Furton added that searches for permanent appointments for these positions will be conducted.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

Committee Vice Chair Lowell asked that the Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting held on June 2, 2017. A motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Meeting held on Friday, June 2, 2017.

## **3. Action Items**

### **AP1. Tenure Nomination**

Committee Vice Chair Lowell noted that the candidate for tenure as a condition of employment, Christina Palacios, Ph.D., was selected based on the caliber of her scholarly work. Provost Furton provided an overview of Dr. Palacios' scholarly and academic achievements.

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 candidate for tenure as a condition of employment.

### **AP2. Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Annual Report**

Vice President for Academic Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar presented the Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Annual Report for Committee review. She stated that effective July 2016, the Education Access and Affordability Act was passed requiring the Florida Board of Governors and the State Board of Education to annually identify strategies to promote college affordability. VP Bejar mentioned that at the last meeting of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee on June 2, 2017, amendments to FIU Regulation 1103, Textbook Affordability were approved. She added that the amendments state in detail FIU's institutional practices in compliance with state law.

VP Bejar noted that the Board of Governors requires State University System institutions to conduct analyses of pricing and selection processes and that pricing variances of \$ 200 or more between course sections of the same course must be identified. She noted three instances and explained the justification for each. Approximately a quarter of FIU's courses do not require any course materials for purchase at all as these are courses where instructors opt to use Open Educational Resources and other materials that do not have a cost for students. VP Bejar stated that FIU has collaborated with a nonprofit ed tech initiative OpenStax and that FIU is one out of 11 institutions across the nation selected to be part of the partnership cohort, adding that the initiative serves to highlight electronic resources and lower cost materials. She noted that OpenStax partner schools are expected to generate \$8.2 million in textbook savings for students across the country.

VP Bejar reported that the University's Affordability Counts program, which was launched in June 2016, encourages faculty to commit to lowering course materials to a total cost of \$60 or less for a three-credit course. She noted that in the current semester, over 100 faculty members are participating in this program.

In response to Vice Chair Lowell's inquiry regarding student feedback on textbook affordability, VP Bejar stated that University leaders are working with student government and surveying students in order to address growing concerns over the rising costs of textbooks. VP Bejar added that the students who participate in OpenStax provide positive feedback.

In response to Trustee Arrizurieta's inquiry regarding courses and online programs that utilize digital content, VP Bejar noted that instructional and learning resources do not always refer to textbooks, as there are websites that permit, through the use of codes, access to e-resources. In response to Board Chair Claudia Puig's inquiry as to how the University's textbook costs and affordability measures compare to peer institutions, VP Bejar stated FIU's faculty and leadership are actively collaborating to transform course materials by promoting low-cost textbook solutions.

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 Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Annual Report.

### **AP3. New Program Proposal: Limited Access Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Analytics**

VP Bejar presented the proposed Limited Access Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Analytics for Committee review, explaining that the program is proposed as a 120 credit undergraduate degree that will focus on developing the essential skills required to pursue careers in data or as quantitative analysts. She reported that Business Analytics is considered to be one of the best jobs in America with a growth rate above forty percent through 2022 and that students who have previously completed either the minor or the track within the Management Information Systems (MIS) have been hired locally by numerous employers in South Florida including Baptist Healthcare systems, Carnival Cruise Lines, APMG, Price Water House Coopers, and many banking financial institutions. She explained that students are required to meet a minimum GPA standard prior to admission into this major.

In response to Trustee Dean C. Colson's inquiry regarding the gateway course prerequisites, VP Bejar described the gateway courses as Business Calculus, Quantitative Methods in Business, and Statistics. Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Affairs for the College of Business Richard E. Klein, Jr., explained that gateway courses can be a roadblock for many students, noting that the College has been working closely with other departments in order to improve gateway course success.

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 Business Administration in Business Analytics (CIP 52.1301) new program proposal.

### **AP4. New Program Proposal: Master of Science in Logistics and Supply Chain Management**

VP Bejar presented the proposed Master of Science in Logistics and Supply Chain Management for Committee review. She explained that the proposed Master of Science in Logistics and Supply Chain Management degree will prepare students for managerial careers in logistics and supply chain management industry which is at the forefront of South Florida. She added that the proposed Master's Degree is an accelerated ten month degree that will provide rigorous graduate education focused on three areas of logistics that are demanded by today's business environment, mainly logistics technology, data analytics, and distribution modeling. VP Bejar also explained that as a logistics hub, South Florida requires graduates to have these skills, which are underrepresented in that arena and yet are necessary for the success of corporate, non-profit, and government

organizations at all levels (i.e., locally, state-wide, nationally, and globally). She stated that in the current marketplace there are a number of diverse employment opportunities that exist for these graduates.

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 Logistics and Supply Chain Management (CIP 52.0203) new program proposal.

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

##### **4.1 Academic Affairs Regular Reports**

Committee Vice Chair Natasha Lowell requested that the Academic Affairs Regular 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 Vice Chair Natasha Lowell adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting on Friday, December 8, 2017 at 10:58 a.m.

*There were no Trustee Requests.*

*KS December 18, 2017*