



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AD-HOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES
AUGUST 20, 2018

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

The Florida International University Board of Trustees' Ad-Hoc Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Michael G. Joseph on Monday, August 20, 2018 at 9:15 a.m. at the Biltmore Hotel, 1200 Anastasia Avenue, Prado Room, Coral Gables, FL 33134.

Committee Chair Joseph welcomed the Committee members and members of the University community.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Ad-Hoc Committee members and verified a quorum. The Ad-Hoc Committee members present were Trustees Michael G. Joseph, *Committee Chair*; Cesar L. Alvarez; Jose J. Armas, *Board Vice Chair (participated telephonically)*; Natasha Lowell; and Jose L. Sirven, III; and former Trustee and current Ad-Hoc Committee member Kathleen L. Wilson.

Trustee Rogelio Tovar was excused.

Trustees Marc D. Sarnoff and Joerg Reinhold also were in attendance.

2. Discussion Item

AH1. Board and University Policies

Committee Chair Joseph explained that Chair Puig formed the Ad-Hoc Committee to review current policies, including naming policies, and to make a recommendation for the Board's consideration. At the request of Committee Chair Joseph, General Counsel Castillo provided an update on the Board of Trustees' discretion over honorary and donative namings of University assets, including the honorary campus naming. General Counsel Castillo explained that the Board of Trustees has authority over honorary and donative naming of University assets, subject to Florida law and Board of Governors regulations. He also provided a legal analysis of potential claims relating to a renaming.

Trustees engaged in a substantive discussion on the 2009 honorary campus naming. Trustee Cesar L. Alvarez noted that a reversal of the honorary campus naming should not be made in response to any negative statements that have been made. Professor Kathleen L. Wilson expressed concern over the lack of consultation with the faculty when the honorary naming was made in 2009. She

explained that while still Faculty Senate Chair, she led a discussion on the campus naming and conducted a straw poll of the Faculty Senate. She noted that this was not an official action item given that the Faculty Senate cannot take any formal action related to the campus name. She discussed the outcome of the vote, noting that members of the Faculty Senate recognized that while Dr. Modesto A. Maidique made significant contributions to the University, he should be recognized in another manner that is not the campus name. She added that the Faculty Senate also concurred that FIU's campuses should not be named after an individual unless it is in recognition of a very substantive donative opportunity.

Committee Chair Joseph indicated that prior Board of Trustees decisions that were later deemed to be undesirable should not be supported and that steps should be taken to correct those prior actions. Board Vice Chair Jose J. Armas shared his concerns over FIU being the only university with a campus named after an individual, noting the possibility of unfavorable implications to the prestige and standing of the institution. He concurred that Dr. Maidique should be recognized in another manner.

Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton explained that branding and reputation are critical components to success and that the University remains committed to elevating FIU's rankings in the state and nationally. Provost Furton also stated that his research showed that no other similar tier university has a campus named after an individual.

Trustee Natasha Lowell recommended that the Committee develop a plan that delineates an alternative naming option for the campus and alternative honors that could be bestowed upon Dr. Maidique within the appropriate legal framework.

Trustee Jose L. Sirven, III concurred that the campus should be renamed and that the Board should identify other means by which to honor Dr. Maidique, adding that the University should also develop strategies that can create greater cohesion amongst FIU's campuses. Trustee Joerg Reinhold concurred with Trustee Sirven but voiced his disagreement as it relates to possible donative naming opportunities for any FIU campus in the future.

General Counsel Castillo explained the motion to the Committee members.

A motion was made and passed to move forward with a recommendation to the Board that the MMC campus be renamed and that a plan be prepared that considers an alternative naming option for the campus, identifies substitute honors or recognition for Dr. Maidique's prior contributions to the University community, and implements a timeline that includes a meeting with Dr. Maidique.

The Motion passed five to one with Trustee Alvarez voting against the motion.

3. New Business

No new business was raised.

4. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Committee Chair Michael G. Joseph adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees' Ad-Hoc Committee on Monday, August 20, 2018 at 10:45 a.m.

There were no Trustee requests.

MB 8.23.18

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