



**Full Board
August 6, 2024
FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Parkview Hall, Multipurpose Room**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

Board Chair Roger Tovar convened the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees at 10:33 AM on Tuesday, August 6, 2024.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Florida International University Board of Trustees and verified a quorum. Present were Roger Tovar, *Board Chair*; Carlos A. Duarte, *Board Vice Chair (Zoom)*; Noël C. Barengo; Francesca Casanova; Dean C. Colson (*Zoom*); Alan Gonzalez (*Zoom*); Francis A. Hondal; Natasha Lowell; Yaffa Popack; Marc D. Sarnoff; and Albert R. Taño.

Trustees Gene Prescott and Chanel T. Rowe were excused.

Board Chair Tovar welcomed all Trustees, members of the University administration, and the University community.

Board Chair Tovar stated that the Board's Bylaws provide that the Board Chair may, in consultation with the University President, allow an item to be presented to the Full Board without prior consideration by a Board committee when circumstances warrant. Board Chair Tovar added that President Kenneth A. Jessell and he agreed that to proceed directly to a Full Board meeting without a prior committee meeting would provide the most expeditious and efficient means by which to review today's agenda item.

Board Chair Tovar pointed out that Trustees are thoroughly briefed prior to each Board of Trustees meeting.

2. Public Appearances

There were no requests for public appearances.

3. Action Item

BT1. Naming of FIU Facility

Trustee Marc D. Sarnoff, Chair of the Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee, indicated that the Board of Trustees will be reviewing the naming of the FIU Stadium. He commented that the stadium opened on September 24, 1995, as a 7,500-seat football and track stadium and since then, the stadium has undergone a major expansion and redesign. Trustee Sarnoff added that today, the stadium has a seating capacity of 20,000 and hosts the home games of the FIU Panthers, the Miami FC, high school football, and others. He indicated that FIU football averaged

over 15,000 fans per game in 2023, which was an increase of nearly 11 percent from the previous season and over 25 percent since 2021.

Athletic Director Scott Carr presented for Board of Trustees review, the naming of the FIU Stadium as “Pitbull Stadium”. He remarked that the proposed stadium naming provides FIU the opportunity to partner with a worldwide brand. He added that said partnership connects FIU with Armando “Pitbull” Perez, his fan base, which includes millions of followers across multiple social media platforms, and his brand. Mr. Carr pointed out that the initial term of the agreement will be for five (5) years for \$6M, payable in annual installments of \$1.2M. Mr. Carr stated that Pitbull has the option to renew the agreement for an additional five (5) years. Mr. Carr indicated that Pitbull will help promote FIU and FIU Athletics and that such promotional activities may include creating an “FIU Anthem” that would be played at all FIU Athletics events, co-branded merchandise, and appearing at one athletics fundraising event per year. Mr. Carr noted that under the agreement, Pitbull will be granted the right to use the stadium for up to 10 days annually with a limited number of tickets to be set aside for FIU students at a discounted rate.

Mr. Carr remarked that Pitbull helped start a tuition-free public charter school called Sports Leadership and Management (SLAM!), which opened in 2013 and leverages universal themes, such as sports, science, technology, media and more to engage their students. Mr. Carr stated that in 2022, SLAM was designated as a “System of Distinction” by Cognia, a global school improvement and accreditation organization. Mr. Carr commented on Pitbull’s newly formed SELF 1st Foundation, which stands for 'Strengthening Education to Level the Field,' and enhances educational access and resources for minority and underserved populations across all levels of education, including college and trade school. Mr. Carr added that SELF 1st seeks to cultivate academic excellence, inspire young minds and create a more equitable society where every individual, regardless of background, has the opportunity to succeed through the transformative power of education.

Trustees recognized Pitbull’s community-minded efforts and commented on his connections to Miami.

A motion was made and unanimously passed by the FIU Board of Trustees to approve the naming of the FIU Stadium as “Pitbull Stadium”.

4. New Business

No new business was raised.

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Board Chair Roger Tovar adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Full Board on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at 10:48 AM.