



**Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee**  
**November 21, 2024**  
**FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms**

**MINUTES**

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**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 Francis A. Hondal on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 10:30 AM.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee members and verified a quorum. Present were Trustees Francis A. Hondal, *Committee Chair*; Alberto R. Taño, *Committee Vice Chair*; Noël C. Barengo; Francesca Casanova; Dean C. Colson; Natasha Lowell; and Roger Tovar, *Board Chair and Athletics Liaison*.

The following Board members were also in attendance: Trustees Alan Gonzalez, Yaffa Popack, Gene Prescott, and Marc D. Sarnoff.

Committee Chair Hondal welcomed the Trustees, University leadership and general public.

Provost and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar provided updates related to the approval of the FIU Experience Impact 2030 Strategic Plan by the Florida Board of Governors (BOG), the ribbon cutting event for the Stephen J. Green School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) II building, Dr. Charlie Andrews' appointment to serve as the Vice President for Student Affairs, events held by the Office of Public Policy and Events in 2024 and the fall commencement events.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Committee Chair Hondal asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on September 12, 2024. Hearing none, a motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on September 12, 2024.

**3. Action Items**

**AP1. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nomination**

Committee Chair Hondal stated that Tenure as a Condition of Employment (TACOE) is proposed for one (1) candidate and added that to be considered for TACOE, newly hired faculty must qualify for tenure at FIU based on their caliber of work and/or tenure status at their previous institution.

Provost Bejar explained the regular process for tenure and promotion decisions at FIU. She commented on the TACOE candidate: Dr. Yuanpu Peter Di, who will be joining the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine in the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine as Professor.

In response to Board Chair Tovar's inquiry, Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Juan C. Cendan explained that the candidate fits well with the areas of expertise that the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (HWCOC) is seeking to develop. Sr. VP and Dean Cendan mentioned the interest in pulmonary research and associated technologies. Senior Vice President for Research and Economic Development and Dean of the University Graduate School, Andres G. Gil pointed out that the candidate also has experience with technology transfer and brings several National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants. Committee Chair Hondal commented on the candidate's area of specialization and its potential applications.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the FIU Board of Trustees approve of the candidate for Tenure as a Condition of Employment as specified in the Board materials.

#### **AP2. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-110 Expressive Activities in Outdoor Areas on Campus**

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo presented the proposed amendments to Regulation FIU-110 Expressive Activities in Outdoor Areas on Campus. He explained the four (4) sets of substantive amendments.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the revisions to Regulation FIU-110 Expressive Activities in Outdoor Areas on Campus, and delegate authority to the University President to approve any subsequent non-material amendments based on comments to the Regulation received from the Florida Board of Governors and as a result of the regulation-making process.

### **4. Information and Discussion Items**

#### **4.1 2024 Equity Report**

Committee Chair Hondal explained that Florida BOG regulation requires each state university to develop a gender equity plan for sports offerings, participation, availability of facilities, scholarship offerings, and funds allocated for administration, recruitment, comparable coaching, publicity and promotion, and other support costs. She added that previously, the report required Board of Trustees approval, however a recent change to the regulation no longer requires said approval.

Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, Emmanuele Bowles mentioned that of the 12 required reporting elements for the athletics program, FIU is equitable in 10 of the categories. She commented on the 4.6% difference in the male and female participation rates that do not meet the proportionality, and the availability of facilities. Dr. Bowles stated that, as improvement plans, Athletics will continue the student interest surveys, adjust roster target practices, and continue to make updates to the enhancements of the softball facilities. She added that improvements to the softball facilities are under construction and scheduled for completion in December 2024. She

commented on additional athletics facilities that have undergone improvements. She pointed out that there is a 1.6% difference of financial assistance awarded that favors women. She added that there is a valid, non-discriminatory reason for the 0.6% above the allowable 1%.

#### **4.2 Graduate Medical Education Program Annual Institutional Review**

Provost Bejar explained that FIU is the sponsoring institution for graduate medical education programs, namely residencies for graduated medical students. She delineated that the accrediting body, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), requires the University to annually submit a written executive summary of the Annual Institutional Review (AIR) to the sponsoring institution's governing body.

Sr. VP and Dean Cendan provided an overview of the 2023 findings, including strengths in faculty and resident satisfaction and compliance, and opportunities for improvement such as workspace availability and palliative care education.

Board Chair Tovar requested an update on the integration with Baptist Health. Sr. VP and Dean Cendan explained that there are thousands of applicants for the residency programs with high interest from both international and American medical graduates including students from HWCOM. He mentioned that advances have been made in the planning of the clinical facility and transfer of the ambulatory care center to be under Baptist Health South Florida. He commented on marketing and investments in research.

#### **4.3 Student Government Updates**

Trustee Francesca Casanova shared that the Student Government Association (SGA) and Center for Leadership and Service, hosted the "Day on the Bay" service event. She mentioned that SGA senators representing the College of Business and College of Arts, Science, and Education each hosted a Business Club Fair and CASE Club Fair, respectively. She noted that Senators hosted "coffee hours" to connect with students. She thanked the FIU Police Department for hosting "Panthers' Night Out" and inviting SGA to participate. Trustee Casanova advised that she would be participating in a Campus Safety Walk at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus (MMC) on November 21<sup>st</sup> and at the Biscayne Bay Campus (BBC) at a later date. She mentioned that SGA will be hosting the "Meet Your Dean" and "Recharge for Finals" events. Trustee Casanova shared that during the spring 2025 semester, SGA activity and service fee budgetary process and elections will take place. She added that nearly all deans confirmed their attendance for the "Meet Your Dean" event with an expected attendance of 50-100 students.

#### **4.4 Faculty Senate Updates**

Trustee Noël C. Barengo shared that from September to November 2024, the Faculty Senate and Steering Committee met four (4) times. He mentioned the outcome of the review of the General Education Course offerings noting the efforts by University Administration to retain University Core Curriculum courses and the removal of courses from the group two (2) category. He mentioned that the Faculty Senate will hold a panel discussion on Academic Freedom and Civil Discourse in the Spring 2025 semester. He commented on the second Post Tenure Review process. Trustee Barengo mentioned Faculty Convocation and the Tenure and Promotion Recognition events. He added that Faculty Get-Togethers were hosted at MMC and BBC. He shared that

University President Kenneth A. Jessell invited Faculty Senators to the Faculty Senate-Senators President's Reception. Trustee Barengo added that a Faculty Get-Together will be held on November 22, 2024, hosted by the FIU Alumni Center.

#### **5. Academic Affairs Regular Reports**

There were no questions from the Committee members in terms of the Academic Affairs regular reports included as part of the agenda materials.

#### **6. New Business**

No new business was raised.

#### **7. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**

With no other business, Committee Chair Francis A. Hondal adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 11:05 AM.