



**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.

**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 and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar mentioned that the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) met at Florida International University and approved the FIU Experience Impact 2030 Strategic Plan. She also noted the ribbon cutting event for the Stephen J. Green School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) II building. She shared that Dr. Charlie Andrews has been appointed to serve as Vice President for Student Affairs. She mentioned that Dr. Andrews has been serving FIU students for more than 25 years, most recently as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs. She detailed that Dr. Andrews has held multiple positions within Academic and Student Affairs during his career at FIU, contributing to initiatives and traditions that have supported FIU's

student success efforts and enhanced the student experience. She shared that he is a two-time alumnus of FIU. Provost Bejar explained that the Office of Public Policy and Events hosted four (4) events in 2024 and that two (2) additional events will be held in the spring 2025 semester. She mentioned that future events will be included in notifications to the Board of Trustees. Provost Bejar mentioned that fall commencement events will take place Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Provost Bejar delineated that TACOE is reserved for individuals who have achieved highly prestigious academic careers prior to their becoming FIU faculty; noting that TACOE candidates have either received or are eligible for tenure at their previous institution. She added that at the time of hire, the faculty candidate understands the expectation that the tenure and rank appointment will be granted upon review of the candidate's materials by the department, the college, the Provost, the President and Board of Trustees. She indicated that said method is the regular process for tenure and promotion decisions at FIU. She mentioned that the FIU department and college have vetted the scholarly qualifications and completed the required expedited tenure review for the candidate. She noted that the candidate biography and curriculum vitae are included in the Board materials. 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 that there are four (4) sets of substantive amendments. Said amendments include adding new language to Section 6, which enumerates conditions that may cause material and substantial interference and disruption, specifically restricting the movement of others, and Section 7 sets reasonable limits on the type and size of displays. He delineated that additions in Sections 9 and 10 prohibit concealing one's identity with intent to intimidate others or to evade discovery in connection with a law or policy violation, or refusing to provide identification when requested by a university official or law enforcement official.

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 explained that the timeframe of the report includes August 2022 to July 2023, and that according to Florida Statutes Section 1006.71 and BOG Regulation 2.003 Equal Access and Opportunity, she would be presenting the FIU gender equity plan. She 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%. Trustee Alan Gonzalez commented on women's sports.

##### **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. He commented on the current status of the program, namely the increase from one (1) residency program to nine (9) through the integration with Baptist Health South Florida (BHSF). Sr. VP and Dean Cendan presented the 5-year outlook, including expansion of the residency programs. He explained the next milestones associated with the AIR. He presented an overview of the planned introduction of the residency programs with the goal of Baptist Hospital becoming a statutory teaching hospital. He mentioned additional programs pending approval to be included in the Graduate Medical Education offerings.

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 BHSF. 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.