



Full Board
September 12, 2024
FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms

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 1:50 PM on Thursday, September 12, 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*; Noël C. Barengo; Francesca Casanova; Dean C. Colson; Alan Gonzalez; Francis A. Hondal; Yaffa Popack (*Zoom*); Gene Prescott; Marc D. Sarnoff; and Alberto R. Taño.

Trustees Natasha Lowell and Chanel T. Rowe were excused.

Board Chair Tovar welcomed all Trustees, members of the University administration, and the University community. He commented that the upcoming College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts (CARTA) Season of the Arts is filled with musical concerts, theatre productions, masterclasses, lectures, special events, and exhibitions on campus and throughout the community. Board Chair Tovar commented on the grand opening of the recently renovated anatomy lab in the Academic Health Center II building. He remarked on the Panthers football 52-16 victory over Central Michigan in the inaugural game at the newly branded Pitbull Stadium. Board Chair Tovar added that sophomore quarterback Keyone Jenkins was selected as the Conference USA Offensive Player of the Week, for the period ending September 7, 2024 and that defensive coordinator, Jovan Dewitt, was named Conference USA Defensive Coordinator of the Week by 247 Sports.

2. Public Appearances

There were no requests for public appearances.

3. Foundation Report

FIU Foundation Inc. Board of Directors Chair Adalio T. Sanchez provided a development staffing update. He indicated that Stephanie Cox was promoted and is now serving as the Assistant Vice President for Development overseeing unit fundraising for the University. He added that alumna Sheila Paul Sal y Rosas has joined the University as the Executive Director of Development, Corporate and Foundation, and that Lana Simkins will soon be joining FIU as the Vice President of Development. Chair Sanchez highlighted recent gifts, including that of Baptist Health South Florida to establish a Baptist Health graduate nursing professorship in acute care within the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences, a grant from the Lennar Foundation in support of the construction trades program within the Moss Department of Construction Management, gifts

from Foundation Board member Tina M. Vidal-Duart and Mr. Armando Codina in support of CasaCuba, and gift from Foundation Board member Elliot N. Stone in support of the Senator Richard B. Stone Public Policy Endowment and the Senator Richard B. Stone Washington, DC. Internships Fund. Chair Sanchez remarked on alumni engagement and presented a recap of the June meetings of the Foundation Board of Directors. He also provided a status update on the Foundation's action plan. Chair Sanchez noted that a philanthropic growth and optimization study is underway by Huron | GG+A Global Philanthropy. He indicated that as of June 30, 2024, \$57M was raised towards the fiscal year goal of \$83M, and that the Foundation's total investment portfolio stands at approximately \$455M and the endowment portion had a market value of \$350M.

4. President's Report

University President Kenneth A. Jessell commented that during their June 27-28, 2024 meetings, the Florida Board of Governors officially recognized FIU as the #1 institution in the State University System in the performance-based funding metrics. He added that at said meeting, the Florida Board of Governors also officially designated FIU a Preeminent State Research University. He indicated that on July 2, 2024, FIU hosted the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Alejandra Castillo, for an announcement that the South Florida ClimateReady Tech Hub would be receiving almost \$20M from the federal government for the second phase of their work. President Jessell commented on the announcement related to the renaming of the FIU Football Stadium as Pitbull Stadium. He noted that the media exposure related to said announcement was valued at \$89M to date. He remarked on summer commencement and on the August 10, 2024 Annual Alumni Panther Block Party. He commented on the kickoff of the fall 2024 semester with the University's Panthers' First Night event. He added that over 8,000 students were in attendance. President Jessell stated that amongst FIU's students this fall is Paralympic medalist, Gia Pergolini. He remarked on the inaugural home football game at Pitbull Stadium and on the upcoming Homecoming game against Monmouth University. He commented on University rankings recently released by the *Princeton Review*, *the Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Monthly*.

5. Action Items – Consent Agenda

Board Chair Tovar indicated that, in addition to Full Board minutes, the Consent Agenda includes action items FF1, FF3, and FF4 recommended for Board approval by the Finance and Facilities Committee, AP1-AP3 recommended for Board approval by the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee, and G1-G3 recommended for Board approval by the Governance Committee.

Trustee Alberto R. Taño disclosed that as part of action item G2 contained in the Consent Agenda, the FIU Foundation Director whose appointment is up for confirmation before the Full Board is his wife, Debra "Debbie" I. Taño, and indicated that he would abstain from voting on that particular Consent Agenda item.

A motion was made and passed to accept the Consent Agenda, and members of the Board approved the following actions:

- **BT1. Minutes, June 5, 2024** - Approval of Minutes of the FIU Board of Trustees, Full Board meeting held on June 5, 2024.

- **BT2. Minutes, July 31, 2024** - Approval of Minutes of the FIU Board of Trustees, Full Board meeting held on July 31, 2024.
- **BT3. Minutes, August 6, 2024** - Approval of Minutes of the FIU Board of Trustees, Full Board meeting held on August 6, 2024.
- **FF1. Approval of Contracts greater than or equal to \$3,000,000:** (1) *Elsevier B.V.*; (2) *Accurate Background, LLC.*; (3) *Mythics, Inc.*; (4) *Oracle America, Inc.*; (5) *Catering Services* - Pursuant to the Delegations of Authority from the Florida International University Board of Trustees to the University President, as reflected in the Resolution on the President's Powers and Duties approved by the Board of Trustees on March 4, 2019, (i) approve, as listed and described in the Board materials, the University entering into the contracts, purchase orders, and/or change orders to the purchase orders and (ii) authorize the University President or his designee to execute, on behalf of the University, the aforementioned contracts, purchase orders, and/or change orders.
- **FF3. Approval of Self-Supporting and Market Tuition Rate College-Credit Programs Annual Report, 2023-24** - Approval of the Florida International University Self-supporting and Market Tuition Rate College-Credit Programs Annual Report for 2023-24 in accordance with State University System of Florida Board of Governors Regulation 8.002(4)(c) Self-supporting and Market Tuition Rate Program and Course Offerings.
- **FF4. FIU Athletics Finance Corp Debt Restructure** - Approval of a resolution authorizing the issuance of debt and requesting the Florida Board of Governors to approve the issuance of such debt to refinance a portion of the outstanding Miami-Dade County Industrial Development Authority Revenue Bonds (FIU Football Stadium Project), Series 2009A Bonds with a debt obligation issued by the FIU Athletics Finance Corporation which will bear interest at a taxable rate in order to remediate the effect of entering into a naming rights and sponsorship agreement related to the Florida International University athletic program; providing an effective date.
- **AP1. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nominations** - Approval of two (2) candidates for Tenure as a Condition of Employment, as specified in the Board materials.
- **AP2. Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency Annual Report** - Approval of the Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency Annual Report.
- **AP3. Honorary Degree Nomination** - Endorsement of Diane Ramy Falconer as a recipient of a Doctor of Science, *honoris causa* from Florida International University.
- **G1. Board of Governors' Statement of Free Expression Endorsement Resolution** - Having reviewed the State University System of Florida Statement of Free Expression, endorsement of such statement.

- **G2. Board Appointment, Florida International University Foundation, Inc.** - Approval of the appointment of the individual listed in the board materials, to the Florida International University Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors.
- **G3. Ratification of the 2024-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement between The Florida International University Board of Trustees and the United Faculty of Florida-FIU** - Ratification of the 2024-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement between The Florida International University Board of Trustees and The United Faculty of Florida (UFF-FIU).

6. Action Items

FF2. Approval of 2024-25 Education and General Carryforward Spending Plan, Fixed Capital Outlay Budget, and Related Certification

Finance and Facilities Committee Chair Marc D. Sarnoff pointed out that the Finance and Facilities Committee engaged in a thorough review of the proposed 2024-25 Education and General Carryforward Spending Plan and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget. There were no further questions from the Trustees.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the Florida International University Board of Trustees (BOT) approve the Florida International University (FIU) Education and General (E&G) expenditure plan for carryforward funds in accordance with State University System of Florida Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 9.007 State University Operating Budgets and Florida Statute 1011.45 End of Year Balance of Funds; approve the FIU Fixed Capital Outlay Budget in accordance with BOG Regulation 14.003; and authorize the University Chief Financial Officer to certify the unexpended amount of funds appropriated to the University from the General Revenue Fund, the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund, and the E&G Student and Other Fees Trust Fund as of June 30, 2024 and the Fixed Capital Outlay budget; and authorize the University President to amend the BOT carryforward expenditure plan and fixed capital outlay budget as necessary and report to the BOT and BOG any amendments to the spending plans in a format prescribed by the Chancellor of the BOG.

SP1. Strategic Plan

Board Vice Chair and Strategic Planning Committee Chair Carlos A. Duart provided highlights from the Strategic Planning Committee's meeting earlier in the day. He pointed out that the Strategic Planning Committee engaged in a thorough review of the Strategic Plan. There were no further questions from the Trustees.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the 2030 Strategic Plan.

7. Status Reports, Board Committees

Audit and Compliance Committee Report

Trustee Alan Gonzalez, Audit and Compliance Committee Chair, provided highlights from the Audit and Compliance Committee's earlier meeting. He indicated that Mr. Trevor L. Williams, Chief Audit Executive, reported on recently completed audits relating to the post-tenure faculty review process, student housing, and continuous auditing of selected processes. Trustee Gonzalez stated

that Ms. Natalie San Martin, Audit Manager, presented on the continuous auditing platform. Trustee Gonzalez pointed out that there are eight (8) ongoing audits in various stages of completion and that Mr. Williams also provided a follow-up status report on prior audit recommendations. Trustee Gonzalez noted that Ms. Jennifer LaPorta, Chief Compliance and Privacy Officer, provided updates and information regarding the annual report and fourth quarter activities and initiatives.

Finance and Facilities Committee Report

Trustee Sarnoff provided highlights from the Finance and Facilities Committee's earlier meeting. He indicated that the Committee reviewed and approved Google and Meta purchase orders for the College of Business for advertising services not to exceed \$1.4M in auxiliary per supplier per fiscal year and a three (3)-year contract with Blackbaud for database subscription to host donor and alumni records for FIU Advancement for a total renewal cost of \$595K. Trustee Sarnoff commented that as follow-up from the Committee's June meeting, Assistant Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Sanyo Mathew, presented the University's plan and vision for the Graham Center building expansion. Trustee Sarnoff pointed out that Sr. Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer Aime Martinez presented the financial performance review for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2023-24 and reported that University operating revenues were above estimates by \$36.7M or 2.4 percent and that operating expenses were below estimates by \$21.4M or 1.4 percent. Trustee Sarnoff noted that the FIU Bonus Plan Report was included in the Reports section of the Committee's agenda materials and certifies that bonuses paid during the prior fiscal year have complied with the criteria in this bonus plan, and that the bonuses were within the University's budget as approved by the Board of Trustees. Trustee Sarnoff added that said report includes the Board of Trustees required certification and provides the total amount of funds paid for performance, recruitment, retention, and other bonuses as approved in the plan.

Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Report

Trustee Francis A. Hondal, Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Chair, provided highlights from the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee's earlier meeting. She commented that Provost and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar presented on the First Amendment and shared an analysis of curricular and non-curricular offerings. Trustee Hondal added that Provost Bejar will lead further assessment on the topic and report back to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Hondal stated that, as part of the Committee's standing agenda items, the student and faculty representatives on the Board of Trustees provided updates.

Strategic Planning Committee Report

Committee's status report was provided during the presentation of agenda item SP1.

Governance Committee Report

Board Chair Tovar provided highlights from the Governance Committee's earlier meeting.

8. New Business

No new business was raised.

9. 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 Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 2:37 PM.