



Governance Committee  
September 12, 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' Governance Committee meeting was called to order by Board Chair Roger Tovar at 12:56 PM on Thursday, September 12, 2024.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Governance Committee members and verified a quorum. Present were Trustees Roger Tovar, *Board Chair*; Carlos A. Duarte, *Board Vice Chair*; Alan Gonzalez; Francis A. Hondal; Yaffa Popack (*Zoom*); and Marc D. Sarnoff.

The following Board members were also in attendance: Trustees Noël C. Barengo, Francesca Casanova, Dean C. Colson, Gene Prescott, and Alberto R. Taño.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Board Chair Tovar asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Governance Committee meeting held on June 5, 2024. Hearing none, a motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Governance Committee meeting held on June 5, 2024.

**3. Action Items**

**G1. Board of Governors' Statement of Free Expression Endorsement Resolution**

Vice Provost for Faculty Leadership and Success, Heather Russell, presented for Committee review the Board of Governors' Statement of Free Expression endorsement resolution. She indicated that in 2019 the State University System of Florida (SUS), through the university presidents, adopted the Statement of Free Expression to promote greater respect on SUS campuses in the mutual exchange of ideas and perspectives. She added that in 2022, the Florida Board of Governors published their Civil Discourse Report. She noted that said report included seven (7) recommendations relative to civil discourse. Vice Provost Russell pointed that since then, FIU has implemented all recommendations, the majority of which are ongoing, many of which predated the report, and some of which require annual actions. She commented that, in the third recommendation, the BOG recommends that each university board of trustees annually review and endorse the Board of Governors' Statement of Free Expression and recommit to the principles of civil discourse. She remarked that the Statement of Free Expression affirms that the hallmark of any university must be the commitment to freedom of speech and the free and open exchange of ideas and perspectives, and that such expressions are expected to occur lawfully and with civility and respect. Vice Provost Russell stated that the FIU Board of Trustees reviewed and endorsed the Statement and its

expressed commitment to the principles of civil discourse at the September 2022 and December 2023 meetings respectively.

In response to Trustee Marc D. Sarnoff, Vice Provost Russell indicated that the Student Government Association annually endorses the Statement of Free Expression.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Governance Committee, having reviewed the State University System of Florida Statement of Free Expression, recommend Florida International University Board of Trustees endorsement of such statement.

#### **G2. Board Appointment, Florida International University Foundation, Inc.**

Senior Vice President for University Advancement and CEO of the FIU Foundation, Inc., Kenneth C. Hall presented the appointment to the FIU Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors for Committee review. He indicated that the FIU Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors approved one new Director, Debra “Debbie” I. Taño. Sr. VP Hall commented on the new appointee.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Governance Committee recommend FIU Board of Trustees approval of the appointment of the individual as presented and included 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**

Provost and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar presented for Committee review the 2024-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Florida International University Board of Trustees and the United Faculty of Florida-FIU. She recognized the work of the chief negotiators. She commented on the Agreement’s three-year salary article. She referred to the agenda materials, which contain a term sheet and summary of changes.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Governance Committee recommend FIU Board of Trustees ratification of the 2024-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the FIU Board of Trustees and the United Faculty of Florida-FIU.

#### **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 Governance Committee on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 1:09 PM.