



Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee
April 15, 2025
FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms

MINUTES

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 Dean C. Colson on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 10:14 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 Dean C. Colson, *Committee Chair*; Alberto R. Taño, *Committee Vice Chair*; Noël C. Barengo; Francesca Casanova; George Heisel, Alexander M. Peraza; and Roger Tovar, *Board Chair and Athletics Liaison*.

The following Board members were also in attendance: Trustees Carlos A. Duarte, Board Vice Chair; Alan Gonzalez; Jesus Lebeña; Yaffa Popack; and Marc D. Sarnoff.

Committee Chair Colson welcomed Trustees George Heisel and Alexander M. Peraza as members of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee.

Provost and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar provided updates related to holding an athletics workshop prior to the June 12, 2025 FIU Board of Trustees meetings; Francesca Casanova serving a second term as Student Government Association President in the 2025-26 academic year; Florida Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) requests; monitoring research funding; FIU receiving the National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense designation from the National Security Agency; and the inaugural Celebrating Impact: Faculty Excellence event.

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Colson asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on February 13, 2025. Hearing none, a motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on February 13, 2025.

3. Action Items

AP1. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-108 Access to Student Education Records

Provost Bejar presented the proposed amendments to Regulation FIU-108 Access to Student Education Records. Responding to an inquiry by Trustee Noël C. Barengo, Associate General Counsel Ryan Kelley clarified how Regulation FIU-108 provides access to the FIU Police Department when there is a legitimate education interest in the records. He provided an example of

how the regulation functions with the University Police Department to ensure that campus safety is maintained.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend FIU Board of Trustees approval of the revisions to Regulation FIU-108 Access to Student Education Records, and delegation of 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.

AP2. New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Business and Government Leadership

AP3. New Program Proposal: Master of Science in Business and Government Leadership

Provost Bejar presented the program proposals for the implementation of a new Bachelor of Science (BS) in Business and Government Leadership and a new Master of Science (MS) in Business and Government Leadership. She commented that said programs are being proposed by FIU Faculty in response to the Florida Legislature's establishment of the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom. Provost Bejar mentioned the preparation and anticipated outcomes for students that complete the BS in Business and Government Leadership or MS in Business and Government Leadership degrees.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend FIU Board of Trustees approval of the Bachelor of Science in Business and Government Leadership new program proposal.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend FIU Board of Trustees approval of the Master of Science in Business and Government Leadership new program proposal.

AP4. Program Termination: Master of Science in Telecommunications and Networking

Provost Bejar presented the proposed termination of the Master of Science in Telecommunications and Networking. She indicated that the faculty in the College of Engineering and Computing propose terminating the Master of Science in Telecommunications and Networking and restructuring the degree as a new curricular track under the existing MS in Information Technology program. She pointed out that the new track will be entitled "Telecommunications" and explained the process of phasing out the program.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend FIU Board of Trustees termination of the Master of Science in Telecommunications and Networking.

AP5. Request for Approval to Seek a New Institutional Accreditor

Provost Bejar provided background information related to accreditation of institutions. She explained that since 1974, FIU has been a member of and has been accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). She noted that in 2020, changes to federal regulation removed the geographic restrictions associated with accreditation of

higher education institutions in the United States and in 2022, the Florida Legislature enacted a law requiring the Florida Board of Governors to identify the best suited accrediting agencies for public postsecondary institutions. She outlined the reasons for seeking accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission including strategic alignment, shared governance, peers, and membership support.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend FIU Board of Trustees authorization to the University to seek approval from the United States Department of Education to apply for accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission.

4. Information and Discussion Items

4.1 Student Government Updates

Trustee Francesca Casanova shared that she will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, pursuing an International MBA at FIU, and serving a second term as Student Government Association (SGA) President. She mentioned that on March 11, 2025, she participated in FIU Day in Tallahassee and on March 25, 2025, the Florida Student Association hosted “Rally in Tally” where she and three (3) SGA leaders attended to represent FIU. She commented that SGA Vice President David Almansa is planning “Recharge for Finals” scheduled for April 21 – 25, 2025. Trustee Casanova stated that, pending approval of the fiscal year 2025-26 Activity and Service Fee budget, she will be creating the SGA Department of Greek Enrichment and Expansion to conduct a comprehensive review of the policies and procedures enforced by the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Enrichment. She mentioned that she is monitoring the news regarding student deportations and has not been personally contacted by any students.

4.2 Faculty Senate Updates

Trustee Noël C. Barengo mentioned that from January 2025 to April 15, 2025, the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee met five (5) times. He commented on work related to the core curriculum and post-tenure review. He said that the Faculty Senate has concerns related to research funding. Trustee Barengo commented that the Faculty Senate opposed the recent memorandum of understanding signed between FIU and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and are calling on the University leadership to reconsider and revoke the agreement. He mentioned the relationship between safety officers and the campus community. He added that Interim President Jeanette M. Nuñez, Chief of Police Alexander Casas and the Faculty Senate have agreed to engage in dialogue at a special meeting of the Faculty Senate on Friday, April 18, 2025. Board Chair Roger Tovar remarked on the agreement between FIU and ICE and noted that the University will comply and cooperate with law enforcement. Senior Vice President for Operations and Safety and Chief of Staff Javier I. Marques commented that in addition to eight (8) agreements with local, state, and federal agencies, FIU also has an agreement with the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police. Trustee Barengo emphasized the importance of clarifying information related to the situation.

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 Dean C. Colson adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 10:48 AM.