



Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee
February 13, 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 Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 11:00 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; and Roger Tovar, *Board Chair and Athletics Liaison*.

The following Board members were also in attendance: Board Vice Chair Carlos A. Duart and Trustees Alan Gonzalez, George Heisel, Jesus Lebeña, Alexander M. Peraza, Yaffa Popack, and Marc D. Sarnoff.

Committee Chair Colson welcomed new Trustees George Heisel, Jesus Lebeña, and Alexander M. Peraza.

Provost and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar provided updates related to research, recognized FIU faculty members Dr. Mark Finlayson and Dr. Remy Dou who received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), acknowledged that FIU is one (1) of nine (9) Universities to receive the Purple Star Campus Designation in the State University System, and mentioned the 24th annual South Beach Wine and Food Festival scheduled for February 20-23, 2025.

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 November 21, 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 November 21, 2024.

3. Action Items

AP1. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-1103 Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency

Provost Bejar presented the proposed amendments to Regulation FIU-1103 Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency, noting that the regulation is being amended to comply with the recent amendments made to Florida Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 8.003. She explained that the regulation now requires each university board of trustees to outline a process for textbook and instructional materials approval and adoption in a university regulation, and that faculty and instructors attest that all required course materials have been reviewed for each course they teach each semester and are appropriate for the course.

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-1103 Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency, 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.

AP2. Updated Continued Exclusion of Trustees other than the Board Chair, Updated Continued Exclusion of the Board of Trustees Corporate Secretary, exclusion of the Interim President, appointment of the Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer as the Interim Senior Management Official and appointment of the updated members of the Key Management Personnel

Provost Bejar presented an updated continued exclusion resolution. She pointed out that by previous resolutions the FIU Board of Trustees (BOT) excluded all of the Trustees except for the Chair of the BOT, from the requirements for a personnel security clearance. She added that the BOT also excluded the BOT Corporate Secretary from the requirements for a personnel security clearance. Provost Bejar explained that the composition of the BOT has changed since the adoption of the last resolution and therefore, the exclusion of BOT members must be updated. She added that the proposed resolution updates the named members of the BOT to include the new Trustees George Heisel, Jesus Lebeña and Alexander M. Peraza, and continues the exclusion of Trustees, other than the Board Chair, and also continues the exclusion of the BOT Corporate Secretary from the requirements for a personnel security clearance. She explained that the proposed resolution has been revised to account for the Presidential transition and updates the Key Management Personnel to include the Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer as the Interim Senior Management Official. She commented on the composition of the Key Management Personnel.

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 adopt a resolution that updates the exclusion of the named members of the FIU Board of Trustees and the Interim President, continues the exclusion of the Board of Trustees Corporate Secretary from the requirements for a personnel security clearance, appoints the Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer as the Interim Senior Management Official (SMO) and appoints the updated members of the Key Management Personnel (KMP).

AP3. Master Affiliation with Nicklaus Children's Hospital

Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (FIU HWCOM) Dr. Juan C. Cendan presented the Master Affiliation with Nicklaus

Children's Hospital. He commented on the benefits of an academic affiliation, and highlighted affiliations of top-ranked colleges of medicine across the United States. He provided an organizational overview of Nicklaus Children's Hospital and the shared goals and aspirations of FIU HWCOM and Nicklaus Children's Health System. Sr. VP and Dean Cendan recognized the key participants involved in the discussions between Nicklaus and FIU HWCOM. He presented the affiliation development pathway and the overarching vision and goals. He explained that there is already alignment between FIU HWCOM and Nicklaus in the areas of strategy and operations, and financial opportunities. He discussed the impacts of incremental funding on the FIU HWCOM. He presented a summary of the affiliation model and next steps. Sr. VP and Dean Cendan referred to the updated resolution provided to the Trustees. Committee Chair Colson, and Trustees Noël C. Barengo, Alan Gonzalez, and Alberto R. Taño provided comments in support of the proposed affiliation with Nicklaus Children's Hospital.

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 adopt the resolution set forth in the Board materials to (1) authorize FIU to finalize and execute the Master Affiliation Agreement between FIU and Nicklaus Children's Hospital, which will expand the Parties' tripartite mission and will provide new financial opportunities available to FIU and/or Nicklaus Children's Hospital because of the alliance; (2) establish a health services support organization that will serve to coordinate, enhance and help facilitate oversight of the relationship between FIU and Nicklaus Children's Hospital; and (3) provide authorizations and delegations to the Chair of the Board of Trustees and/or President as described in the resolution.

Board Chair Roger Tovar, University President Kenneth A. Jessell, and Board Vice Chair Carlos A. Duart commented in support of the affiliation with Nicklaus Children's Hospital and expanded on the process that led to the development of said affiliation.

4. Information and Discussion Items

4.1 Alternative Admissions

Provost Bejar presented the discussion item on alternative admissions, outlined in Regulation FIU-412 Undergraduate Admissions. She provided background information relevant to the discussion including that FIU is a member of the National Association for College Admissions Counseling, the College Board, and the Association of Chief Admission Officers of Public Universities. She added that BOG regulations require each university board of trustees to develop regulations that comport with requirements and allow for exceptions. She commented that BOG regulation provides the authority to grant exceptions under the appropriate university committee and FIU Regulation-412 delegates authority to the Provost to establish the total number of first time in college (FTIC) students admissible annually through the alternative admission process, and stipulates that the rates of retention, academic success, and graduation rates of students admitted to FIU through an alternative admissions process must be annually reviewed and presented to the BOT. Provost Bejar highlighted the last five (5) years of data on alternative admissions, noting that in 2023-24, 1.3% or 182 of 14,342 FTIC and transfer students were admitted by exception. She added that of the 6,145 FTIC students in 2023-2024, 158 (2.6%) were admitted by exception. She stated that while the population sizes are small, they are monitored and adjusted as needed, and that there are no

concerns related to retention. She provided data related to the on-going graduation rates of students who went through the alternative admissions process as of 2023-2024.

4.2 Student Government Updates

Trustee Francesca Casanova shared that Student Government Association (SGA) elections are taking place, with four (4) parties and over 120 students running for different elected positions. She mentioned that campaigning began, voting will take place on March 4 and 5, 2025, and that the election results will be announced on March 7, 2025. She mentioned that the SGA Activity and Service Budget Committee finalized the allocations of over \$14.4M to over 70 entities. She mentioned that funding for the Registered Student Organizations Council was prioritized, and that funding was reduced for programs that students are no longer engaging in. Trustee Casanova thanked President Jessell on behalf of the student body.

4.3 Faculty Senate Updates

Trustee Noël C. Barengo, as Chair of the Faculty Senate, expressed the Faculty Senate's disappointment with the process of the appointment of the FIU Interim President. He explained that Board Chair Roger Tovar has agreed to attend a Steering Committee meeting of the Faculty Senate. Trustee Barengo outlined the expectations of the Faculty Senate related to the next FIU presidential search, including that the search be conducted with transparency, in national scope, and designed to attract highly qualified candidates with the Presidential Search Committee developing a position description consistent with FIU's mission, strategic plan, and aspirational goals. He shared that Lieutenant Governor Jeanette M. Nuñez accepted an invitation to attend the Faculty Senate meeting on February 18, 2025.

Trustee Barengo congratulated Dr. Mark Finlayson and Dr. Remy Dou for receiving the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). He shared that a total of six (6) courses will be added to the approved general education group II course list under the BOG General Education Review Process. He commented on the development of a panel discussion on academic freedom. Trustee Barengo mentioned faculty activities including the productions of "The Soul of a Swimmer" on February 15, 2025, and "Cinderella" on February 14, 2025. He remarked on the next Faculty Get-Together scheduled for February 21, 2025. Trustee Barengo thanked President Jessell for his service.

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 Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 11:55 AM.