



Full Board
July 30, 2025
Zoom

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

Board Chair Carlos A. Duart convened the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, July 30, 2025.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Florida International University Board of Trustees and verified a quorum. Present were Carlos A. Duart, *Board Chair*; Marc D. Sarnoff, *Board Vice Chair*; Noël C. Barengo; Francesca Casanova; Dean C. Colson; Alan Gonzalez; George Heisel; Jesus Lebeña; Alexander M. Peraza; Yaffa Popack; Chanel T. Rowe; Alberto R. Taño; and Fred Voccola.

Board Chair Duart welcomed and introduced Trustee Frederick "Fred" Voccola, who was appointed to the FIU Board of Trustees on June 18, 2025, by the Florida Board of Governors. Board Chair Duart mentioned that Trustee Voccola is a technology entrepreneur and as co-founder and CEO of Kaseya, Trustee Voccola spearheaded the company's evolution into a global leader in AI-powered cybersecurity and IT management software for small to mid-sized businesses.

Board Chair Duart stated that the Board's Bylaws provide that the Board Chair may, in consultation with the President, allow an item to be presented to the Full Board without prior consideration by a Board committee when circumstances warrant. He added that directly proceeding to a Full Board meeting without a prior committee meeting provides the most expeditious and efficient means by which to review the time-sensitive agenda items.

2. Public Appearances

There were no requests for public comment.

3. Action Items

3.1 Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-1101 Tuition Fees Schedule for the 2025-26 Academic Year

Board Vice Chair and Finance and Facilities Committee Chair, Marc D. Sarnoff, stated that the major revisions to FIU-1101 include increasing the out-of-state fee and the corresponding out-of-state financial aid fee for all out-of-state students covered under the regulation. He explained that the proposed increase will help offset growing costs and ensure the sustained quality of educational experiences at FIU.

Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer Aime Martinez noted that on June 18, 2025, the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) approved a motion to allow universities to increase the out-of-state fee by up to 10% for students enrolled for fall 2025, and up to 15% for fall 2026. She commented on the stipulation that if institutions increase the amount of out-of-state students, the same percentage of admitted in-state students as existed in fall 2024 must be maintained. Sr. VP and CFO Martinez commented on the proposed amendments: increasing the out-of-state and corresponding out-of-state financial aid fees by 10% for undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs, effective fall 2025; amending the language to clarify that the out-of-state fee for graduate assistantship appointments for at least 0.25 full-time equivalent and full fellowships is waived; and clarifying that self-supporting and market rate tuition rate auxiliary programs are not subject to the increase.

Sr. VP and CFO Martinez explained that the change in tuition and fees for students covered under Regulation FIU-1101 will result in an increase of \$41.32 per credit hour for undergraduate students, \$54.60 increase per credit hour for graduate students; and \$45.94 increase per credit hour for FIU College of Law students. She explained that tuition and associated fees for the FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (HWCOM) are collected on an academic year basis, and therefore, the increase will be \$3,150 per academic year for students covered under Regulation FIU-1101. Sr. VP and CFO Martinez stated that the increase will be \$52.71 per credit hour for FIU Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing students.

Sr. VP and CFO Martinez pointed out that the State of Florida is currently charging the third lowest tuition and fees in the nation. She provided analysis comparing FIU across the State University System (SUS) in terms of 2025-26 undergraduate non-resident tuition and required fees. She noted that after effectuating the proposed increases, FIU remains the fourth lowest in the SUS and 10% lower than the SUS average. In response to Trustee Jesus Lebeña, Sr. VP and CFO Martinez confirmed that tuition is being increased to the maximum amount allowed by BOG regulation and is consistent with the other SUS institutions. She indicated that Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University would not be participating in the out-of-state fee increase.

A motion was made and passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the proposed amendments to Regulation FIU-1101 Tuition Fees Schedule 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.

Trustee Francesca Casanova voted against the motion.

3.2 Updated 2025-26 University and University Organizations Operating Budgets

Board Vice Chair Sarnoff commented that the Board reviewed and approved a provisional budget on June 12, 2025, as the final allocation of state appropriations to FIU for fiscal year 2025-26 was not available at the time.

Sr. VP and CFO Martinez presented the updated 2025-26 University and University Organizations Operating Budgets, reflecting the final allocation of state appropriations. She explained that the Legislature finalized the fiscal year 2025-26 State budget on June 16, 2025, which impacted the

provisional budget that was previously presented. She commented that the total change in the expenditure budget is \$52.4M. Sr. VP and CFO Martinez noted that the SUS received a total of \$190.4M, of which FIU secured \$45.3M in operating funds and \$35M in operational enhancement funds, \$15M is recurring and \$20M non-recurring. She noted that for being one (1) of the four (4) Preeminent institutions, FIU received \$10M in non-recurring funds and for performance-based funding, the University received \$300,000. Sr. VP and CFO Martinez noted that the State allocated \$478.1M for Fixed Capital Outlay for the SUS. She added that FIU received \$6.3M for Capital Improvement Trust Fund (CITF) for the Graham Center expansion and \$53.7M for Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) for the HWCOC academic health sciences clinical facility. She commented that the expected incremental net tuition revenue for the University is \$7.2M and \$0.2M for HWCOC. She indicated that incremental Education and General (E&G) revenue is expected to total \$41.7M.

Chair Duarte and University President Jeanette M. Nuñez commented on the operational enhancement funds that the Legislature allocated to FIU. President Nuñez noted the positive impact of involvement by the Board of Trustees on the outcomes.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the updated FIU 2025-26 University and University Organizations Operating Budgets and authorize the University President to amend the budgets consistent with Legislative, Board of Governors' and BOT directives and guidelines.

3.3 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposals, 2025-26

Trustee Dean C. Colson, Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Chair, explained that the purpose of Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) funding is to encourage partnerships between nursing education institutions and healthcare providers. Provost and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar stated that the Legislature provided a maximum of \$6M to the SUS institutions for the 2025-26 fiscal year. She added that subject to available funds and selection and approval by the BOG, for every dollar contributed to an institution by a healthcare partner, the fund will provide a dollar-for-dollar match from the State's LINE fund.

Provost Bejar presented FIU's 2025-26 LINE fund proposals for Board of Trustees review. She pointed out that FIU is submitting four (4) proposals which, if fully funded would total \$610,000 and \$1.2M if fully matched one-to-one by the State. She explained that the first proposal and commitment is \$480,000 from Baptist Health South Florida to support 24 traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Accelerated Option BSN program students in exchange for a work commitment post-graduation. She added that the matching funds will double the financial support investment to \$960,000, increasing the value of the student awards and/or the number of Nurse Scholars to 48. Provost Bejar commented that the second proposal is from Memorial Healthcare System for support of \$100,000, or \$200,000 if fully matched, for partial salary and benefits of nursing faculty and/or adjunct faculty for one (1) year to teach in the undergraduate nursing program and supervise students in clinical rotations. She stated that the third LINE proposal is from Memorial Healthcare System for support of \$20,000 for two (2) nursing students (\$10,000 each) who will be placed at Memorial Healthcare System for their clinical learning experiences with matching funds doubling the value of the awards to \$20,000 per student. Provost Bejar commented

that the final proposal for \$10,000 from America-Loving Care Home Health “ALC Home Health” provides support for one (1) nursing student who will precept at ALC Home Health for clinical nursing experiences in Adult and Pediatric Home and School nursing care. She added that the matching funds would double the financial investment to \$20,000.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the 2025-26 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposals:

- Baptist Health South Florida, \$480,000
- Memorial Healthcare System, \$100,000
- Memorial Healthcare System, \$20,000
- America-Loving Care Home Health, \$10,000

3.4 Legislative Budget Requests, 2026-27

Trustee Colson commented that the BOG requires that SUS institutions submit their Legislative Budget Requests (LBRs) for review and approval by their respective board of trustees. Provost Bejar explained how investing in FIU immediately impacts and provides measurable return on investment. She summarized the four (4) LBRs: Operational Excellence; Category 6 Initiative: Infrastructure, Testing, Disaster Management and Recovery; Innovative Technology Hub and Academic-Industry Partnerships Initiatives; and FIU Health Innovation District.

Provost Bejar commented that the \$60M request in recurring funds to support Operational Excellence propels FIU to the next level of academic and research excellence and continues investments in student success. She remarked that the request for \$46.5M, \$12M recurring and \$34.5M non-recurring, for the Category 6 Initiative: Infrastructure, Testing, Disaster Management and Recovery provides support that will help expand industry partnerships and testing, provide for the establishment of the leading Category 6 testing facility, and integrate work currently being done at the Institute of Environment, Extreme Events Institute and the Academy for International Disaster Preparedness. Provost Bejar stated that the \$43.3M, \$22.8M recurring and \$20.5M non-recurring, request for Innovative Technology Hub and Academic-Industry Partnerships Initiatives is focused on growing the FIU federal research portfolio, leveraging internal expertise and research, and expanding strategic industry partnerships and alliances. She added that the final request for \$38M, \$28M recurring and \$10M non-recurring, for the FIU Health Innovation District intends to broaden FIU Health’s clinical research in strategically aligned areas that correspond with the state's health priorities.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the 2026-27 Legislative Budget Requests as included in the Board materials.

3.5 Review and Approve General Education Course Offerings

Provost Bejar presented the review of the General Education course offerings. She explained that BOG Regulation 8.005 provides that each SUS institution's board of trustees and president must annually review and approve, at a public meeting, the courses offered by the institution that meet general education course requirements. She provided an overview of the course standards, communication, humanities, social science, natural science, and mathematics. She explained that 107 total courses were reviewed, 77 courses had no updates, 14 courses were updated with enhanced

learning outcomes, 13 courses were removed, and three (3) courses were added. She commented on the three (3) additions, which include IDC 2002 Artificial Intelligence for All, IDH 1001 Origin of Ideas, and IDH 1002 Idea of Origins. Trustee Noël C. Barengo commented on the review process.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees, after completing its review, approve the general education course offerings.

3.6 Updated Continued Exclusion of Trustees, other than the Board Chair and Vice Chair, and of the Board of Trustees Corporate Secretary, exclusion of the President, continued appointment of the Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer as the Interim Senior Management Official and reaffirmation of the composition of the Key Management Personnel

Provost Bejar mentioned that FIU has entered, and desires to continue to enter, into contractual obligations with agencies of the United States Government, including contractual obligations requiring security clearance. She explained that the composition of the Board of Trustees has changed since the latest exclusion resolution, and therefore, the exclusion of the Board of Trustees members must be updated. She added that the Resolution included in the agenda materials updates the exclusion of the named members of the Board of Trustees to include the newly appointed Board member, Trustee Voccola, and excludes the President and the Board of Trustees Corporate Secretary from the requirements for a personnel security clearance, continues the appointment of the Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer as the Interim Senior Management Official (SMO) and reaffirms the composition of the Key Management Personnel (KMP).

Provost Bejar noted that current Department of Defense policy requires that the Chair and Vice Chair of the FIU Board of Trustees meet the personnel clearance requirements established for the level of the University's security clearance. She added that the Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer currently possesses the requirements necessary to continue to serve as a KMP and as the Interim SMO pursuant to the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual and as required by the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency and may serve in such capacities pending the President obtaining the necessary requirements to serve as a KMP and as the SMO.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees (BOT) adopt a resolution that updates the exclusion of the named members of the FIU BOT and excludes the President and the BOT Corporate Secretary from the requirements for a personnel security clearance, continues the appointment of the Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer as the Interim Senior Management Official and reaffirms the composition of the Key Management Personnel.

4. Information Items: No Action Required

4.1 Updated 2025-26 Appropriated Fixed Capital Outlay Budget/Capital Improvement

Board Vice Chair Sarnoff stated that Board approval is not required for agenda item 4.1, as the authority to amend the 2025-26 Appropriated Fixed Capital Outlay Budget was delegated to the University President following the finalization of the state budget confirmed by the Legislature on June 16, 2025. He added that for the Board's information and as detailed in the agenda materials, the

revised 2025-26 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget and Capital Improvement allocates a total of \$60M. He noted that this includes \$54M from PECO funds designated for the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Clinical Partnership, and \$6.3M from CITF for the Graham Center expansion and renovation.

4.2 Updated Request for Florida International University's 2026-27 Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request, Consisting of the five-year Capital Improvement Plan

Board Vice Chair Sarnoff explained that the Board delegated authority to the University President to amend the 2026-27 Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request, which includes the five-year Capital Improvement Plan, in accordance with the finalized state budget confirmed by the Legislature on June 16, 2025. He added that the updated materials include the top two (2) facility requests for PECO funding: (1) the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Academic Health Center and Clinical Partnership and (2) the continuation of the Honors College project. He pointed out that the request also prioritizes three (3) additional projects including: (1) Science Laboratory Complex; (2) the remodeling of the DM (Deuxieme Maison) building and (3) Academic Health Center Study Complex.

5. New Business

Board Chair Duart commented that the University community looked forward to the start of the fall semester on August 25, 2025. He highlighted upcoming events, including Panthers' FIRST NIGHT and the inaugural FIU Pig Roast Series. He remarked on the FIU Football home opener on August 29, 2025, the FIU vs. Florida Atlantic University football game on September 13, 2025, and the FIU Homecoming game on November 15, 2025. He noted that the Board's next regularly scheduled Committee and Full Board Meetings will be held on September 18, 2025.

6. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Board Chair Carlos A. Duart adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Full Board on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, at 1:53 PM.