



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 Fred Voccola, who was appointed to the FIU Board of Trustees on June 18, 2025 by the Florida Board of Governors. He mentioned that Trustee Voccola is a seasoned 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 noted that Trustee Voccola is a recognized authority on AI, cybersecurity, business transformation, crisis management and organizational culture, and an active member of the Forbes Technology Council, the Fast Company Executive Board and the Newsweek Expert Forum. Board Chair Duart stated that Trustee Voccola succeeds Mr. Roger Tovar on the Board.

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 Marc D. Sarnoff, Finance and Facilities Committee Chair, introduced the proposed amendments to Regulation FIU-1101, Tuition Fees Schedule, for the 2025-26 academic year and noted that the major revisions to the Regulation 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 out-of-state fee component of tuition has not been adjusted in over a decade, and 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 provided background information related to the proposed amendments noting that on June 18, 2025, the Florida Board of Governors 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 number of out-of-state students, they must also maintain the same percentage of admitted in-state students as existed in Fall 2024. Sr. VP and CFO Martinez reviewed the proposed amendments including an increase to 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 change in tuition and fees for the undergraduate and graduate students will result in a \$41.32 increase per credit hour or \$1,239.60 for 30 credit hours (6.5% increase). She detailed that the impact to a graduate student will be \$54.60 per credit hour or \$1,334.40 for a student taking 30 credit hours (5.4% increase). She commented that for law students the increase is \$45.94 increase per credit hour or \$1,126.56 for 24 credit hours (4% increase). She stated that the FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine charges tuition on an academic year, and the impact will be \$3,150 (4.6% increase). Sr. VP and CFO Martinez explained that nursing student increase will be \$52.71 or \$1,289.12 for 24 credit hours.

Sr. VP and CFO Martinez delineated that the State of Florida is currently charging the third lowest tuition and fees in the nation and provided analysis comparing FIU across the State University System (SUS). Responding to Board Chair Duarte's inquiry Sr. VP and CFO Martinez explained that other universities previously increased rates leading to a difference among the SUS institutions in 2025-26. Sr. VP and CFO Martinez confirmed that tuition is being increased to the maximum amount allowed by the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) regulation and is consistent with the other SUS institutions. She clarified that Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) would not be participating in the out-of-state fee increase.

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

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, which reflects 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 presented to the Board on June 12th.

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

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, Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer, 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 this year, FIU is submitting four (4) proposals which, if fully funded all four proposals would equal \$610,000 and then if fully matched 1 to 1 by the State would equal approximately \$1.2M dollars. 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, which will increase the value of the student awards and/or the number of Nurse Scholars to 48. Provost Bejar commented that the second proposal is \$100,000 from Memorial Healthcare System for support of 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; noting that if matched, the amount would become \$200,000. She stated that the third LINE proposal is \$20,000 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 by the FIU Board of Trustees to 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 2026-27 Legislative Budget Requests

Trustee Colson commented that the BOG requires that SUS institutions submit their legislative budget requests 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 and provided examples. She summarized the four (4) Legislative Budget Requests (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 expanded on the request for \$60M in recurring funds to support Operational Excellence, noting the four (4) categories of focus for the University which include research faculty recruitment, retention of faculty and staff, elevating the student experience, and upgrading the digital compliance and security infrastructure. She detailed 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, LBR provides support for the Innovative Technology Hub and Academic-Industry Partnerships Initiatives 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. She detailed that the focal research areas encompass aging and neurodegenerative diseases, HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), Oncology, Genetics, Cardiovascular and Orthopedics. She added that FIU Health is enhancing its academic medical alliance with Baptist Health South Florida.

A motion was made and unanimously passed by the FIU Board of Trustees to approve the 2026-27 Legislative Budget Requests.

3.5 Review and Approve General Education Course Offerings

Provost Bejar presented the review of the General Education Course Offerings. She provided an overview of BOG Regulation 8.005(4)(a) and of the general education 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 3 courses were added. She detailed the three (3) additions including 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 by the FIU Board of Trustees, after completing its review, to 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 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 detailed 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 Information 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 materials, the revised 2025-26 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget and Capital Improvement allocates a total of \$60M. He noted that this includes \$54M from Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds designated for the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Clinical Partnership, and \$6.3M from Capital Improvement Trust Funds 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, Information Item 4.2, 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 for the Board's information and as detailed in the materials, the updated package includes the top two (2) facility requests for PECO funding that are essential to the University's ability to continue and enhance critical priorities: (1) the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Academic Health Center and Clinical Partnership and (2) the continuation of the Honors College project, of which the State has already committed \$11M in prior years. He delineated that the request also prioritizes three (3) additional projects including: (1) a 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 provided updates related to start of the fall semester on August 25, 2025 with Panthers' FIRST NIGHT at Pitbull Stadium; fall sports; the FIU Football home opener on August 29, 2025 against Bethune-Cookman; the inaugural FIU Pig Roast Series on Saturday, September 13, at Pitbull Stadium on the day of the FIU vs. FAU football game; the FIU Football Homecoming game scheduled for November 15, 2025; and the next regularly scheduled Committee and Full Board Meetings 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.