



**Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee**  
**November 20, 2025**  
**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' Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Dean C. Colson on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 10:32 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; and Alexander M. Peraza.

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

Provost, Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer, Elizabeth M. Bejar highlighted faculty research and academic accomplishments and recognized significant faculty honors and FIU–Baptist Health partnership milestones.

**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 September 18, 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 September 18, 2025.

**3. Action Items**

**AP1. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nomination**

Committee Chair Colson commented on the Tenure as a Condition of Employment (TACOE) process. Provost Bejar commented on the TACOE candidates: Dr. Abdel-Hameed Badawy, who will be joining the Knight Foundation School of Computing and Information Sciences in the College of Engineering and Computing and is recommended for hire at the rank of Associate Professor; and Dr. Jennifer Lynn Martin, who will be joining the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine in the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and is recommended for hire at the rank of Professor.

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 of the candidates for Tenure as a Condition of Employment as specified in the Board materials.

#### **4. Information and Discussion Items: No Action Required**

##### **4.1 Research Update**

Senior Vice President for Research and Economic Development, and Dean of the University Graduate School, Dr. Andres G. Gil provided an overview covering FIU's growth in research activity and national rankings, the impact of recent federal grant terminations, the university's federal advocacy efforts, current trends in first-quarter awards and federal funding, proposed changes to federal facilities and administration (F&A) rates, and the broader importance of research to FIU's reputation and national presence.

##### **4.2 Student Government Updates**

Trustee Francesca Casanova reported on recent student engagement activities, highlighted Homecoming events, and outlined key activity and service (A&S) fee-funded projects, including upgrades to campus recreation facilities, improvements to the Children's Creative Learning Center, and a student bike-lock initiative in partnership with FIU Police.

##### **4.3 Faculty Senate Updates**

Trustee Noël C. Barengo reported that the Faculty Senate focused on governance and accreditation matters, faculty support and academic freedom, major policy developments, summer research proposal approvals, updates on AI integration, and ongoing discussions regarding faculty and graduate student needs such as workforce housing.

#### **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, November 20, 2025, at 11:19 AM.