



**Full Board**  
**September 18, 2025**  
**FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms**

**MINUTES**

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**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 1:33 PM on Thursday, September 18, 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; Dean C. Colson; Alan Gonzalez; George Heisel; Jesus Lebeña; Alexander M. Peraza; Yaffa Popack; Alberto R. Taño; and Fred Voccola (*Zoom*).

Trustees Francesca Casanova and Chanel T. Rowe were excused.

Board Chair Duart welcomed all Trustees, members of the University administration, and the University community. 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 noted that Trustee Voccola fills the seat previously held by Mr. Roger Tovar on the Board. Board Chair Duart indicated that, in accordance with Florida Statutes, he appointed Trustee Alexander M. Peraza to serve on the FIU Athletics Finance Corp. Board of Directors and its Executive Committee as the FIU Board of Trustees Chair appointed representative to that Board.

Board Chair Duart commented that FIU welcomed nearly 6,000 freshmen to campus this summer and fall, which represents the largest incoming freshman class in FIU history. He added that the 2024-2025 cycle saw the largest group of high school seniors apply to FIU and the number of students who accepted early admissions represented an all-time high for FIU. Board Chair Duart remarked that FIU Football defeated FAU 38-28 in the 23rd-edition of the Shula Bowl rivalry, representing the Panthers' first victory over the owls since 2016. He added that the 2025 Homecoming Game is scheduled for November 15, 2025. Board Chair Duart stated that the upcoming College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts (CARTA) Season of the Arts is filled with musical concerts, theatre productions, masterclasses, lectures, special events, and exhibitions on campus and throughout the community.

Board Chair Duart noted that on Friday, October 24, 2025, the University community will come together for the Investiture of President Nuñez. He stated that the Florida Board of Governors Trustee Summit will be held at the University of Florida on November 5, 2025 and urged Trustees to attend.

## **2. Public Appearances**

There were no requests for public comment.

## **3. Foundation Report**

FIU Foundation Inc. Board of Directors Chair Adalio T. Sanchez commented that, to date, pipeline proposals delivered total \$77.2M and projected pipeline proposals total \$112.5M. He added that verbal and pending commitments total \$11.3M. He provided updates on the Trish and Dan Bell Chapel and CasaCuba projects. He noted that the Bell Chapel completion is targeted for late summer 2026 and that \$18.5M has been raised with a remaining gap of \$7.5M. Chair Sanchez added that a programmatic grant for \$300K was submitted. He remarked that \$28M has been raised for CasaCuba with a remaining gap of \$13.1M and verbal commitments for construction and programming totaled \$7M and \$2.5M respectively.

Chair Sanchez provided alumni updates. He outlined a staffing review for the Foundation for the period beginning July 1, 2025 through September 15, 2025. He commented that 128 employees work in roles that advance fundraising efforts, new hires totaled 16, and 14 roles are under recruitment. Chair Sanchez indicated that, for the 12 months ending June 30, 2025 philanthropy totaled \$66.7M and cash received was \$39.6M. He pointed out that, as of June 30, 2025, the FIU Foundation has total assets of approximately \$508.2M and that on a fiscal year-to-date basis, performance of the main investment portfolio is estimated to be 10.97% net of fees.

## **4. President's Report**

President Jeanette M. Nuñez commented on the start of the fall semester. She noted that among the freshman class are national merit scholars; leaders in the top 10% of their graduating class; students who scored in the 99th percentile on their SAT; and a co-author of a published medical paper. She remarked that over 11,000 students, faculty, staff and alumni joined together to celebrate the start of the fall semester at Panthers FIRST NIGHT. President Nuñez added that the University also welcomed over 150 new faculty members and had the largest sorority recruitment class since 2015. She mentioned that more than 80 teams participated in FIU's inaugural pig roast series and presented a video highlighting the event. President Nuñez commented on Panthers football and other sports also playing, including soccer and volleyball. She highlighted upcoming events, including faculty convocation, presidential speaker series, and homecoming.

President Nuñez stated that FIU researchers, led by Dean of the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, Tomas Guilarte, identified a protein tied to brain inflammation as a potential early biomarker for Alzheimer's, years before symptoms appear. She added that Ph.D. student Daniel Martinez-Perez played a leading role in the Alzheimer's study. She noted that FIU scientists are advancing AI-powered marine robots that can "think" more independently, using digital twin technology to better monitor and protect ecosystems. She stated that the National Science Foundation awarded FIU \$6.37M to continue its Florida coastal everglades long term

ecological research program and that the six(6)-year renewal is the fifth in the program's history. President Nuñez mentioned that FIU'S Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom launched its first senior leadership fellows seminar, featuring five (5) distinguished international leaders including a former president of Mexico and top officials from the Dominican Republic, Organization of American States, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Czech Republic. She further stated that students will have the opportunity to engage in free, multi-week study group sessions with the fellows, gaining one-on-one insights into leadership, economic development, global affairs, and policymaking.

### **5. Action Items – Consent Agenda**

Board Chair Duart indicated that, in addition to Full Board minutes, the Consent Agenda includes action items FF1, FF3 – FF5, FF7, FF8 recommended for Board approval by the Finance and Facilities Committee, AP1 – AP5 recommended for Board approval by the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee, and G1 – G6 and G8 recommended for Board approval by the Governance Committee.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to accept the Consent Agenda, and members of the Board approved the following actions:

- **BT1. Minutes, June 2, 2025** - Approval of Minutes of the FIU Board of Trustees, Full Board meeting held on June 2, 2025.
- **BT2. Minutes, June 12, 2025** - Approval of Minutes of the FIU Board of Trustees, Full Board meeting held on June 12, 2025.
- **FF1. Approval of Contracts greater than \$3M: 1.** CDW Government, LLC; 2. Agilent Technologies Inc.; 3. Honorlock, Inc. - Pursuant to the Delegations of Authority from the Florida International University Board of Trustees to the University President, as reflected in the Resolution on the President's Powers and Duties approved by the Board of Trustees on March 4, 2019, FIU Board of Trustees (i) approval, as listed and described in the Board materials, the University entering into the contracts and purchase orders and/or change orders to the purchase orders ("Contracts") and (ii) authorization for the University President or her designee to execute, on behalf of the University, the aforementioned Contracts and any future option, renewal, extension, or amendment to a Contract and provide after the fact notice to the Finance and Facilities Committee, so long as the additional expenditure does not increase the amount of the transaction more than 10% of the approved value.
- **FF3. Approval of 2025-26 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget** - FIU Board of Trustees(BOT) approval of FIU's 2025-26 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget in accordance with State University System of Florida Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 14.003 Fixed Capital Outlay Projects – University Budgeting Procedures; and authorization for the University President to amend the BOT Fixed Capital Outlay Budget as necessary and report to the BOT and BOG any amendments to the spending plans in a format prescribed by the Chancellor of the BOG.

- **FF4. University Depositories, Amendment to Signature Authority, and Authorization to Transfer Funds** - FIU Board of Trustees (BOT) adoption of the following resolution that pursuant to Section 1011.42, Florida Statutes:

1. continues to designate the financial institutions approved by the BOT on December 5, 2019 as University depositories; and
2. amends the signature authority approved by the BOT on April 15, 2025 to designate the following officers and employees of the University as authorized to sign checks to pay legal obligations of the University from any and all designated University depositories:

*Adding:*

David H. Snider, Interim Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

*Retaining and updating title:*

Jeanette M. Nuñez, President

*Retaining:*

Alexandra Mirabal, Controller and Associate Vice President

*Removing:*

Aime Martinez

3. and continues to authorize the University president or her designee to transfer funds from one depository to another, within a depository, to another institution, or from another institution to a depository for investment purposes and may transfer funds to pay expenses, expenditures, or other disbursements, evidenced by an invoice or other appropriate documentation.
- **FF5. Approval of Self-supporting and Market Tuition Rate College-Credit Programs Annual Reports, 2024-25** - FIU Board of Trustees approval of the FIU Self-supporting and Market Tuition Rate College-Credit Programs Annual Report for 2024-25 in accordance with State University System of Florida Board of Governors Regulation 8.002(4)(c) Self-supporting and Market Tuition Rate Program and Course Offerings.
  - **FF7. Sublease of the FIU Center for Imaging Science to Baptist Outpatient Services, Inc.** - FIU Board of Trustees approval of terms and authorization to negotiate and execute a sublease of space at the FIU Center for Imaging Science with Baptist Outpatient Services, Inc.
  - **FF8. Authorization to Increase Project Budget for the Trish and Dan Bell Chapel and East Loop Road Realignment from \$35.86M to \$38.52M** - FIU Board of Trustees authorization to increase the project budget for the Trish and Dan Bell Chapel and East Loop Road Realignment (“Project”) from \$35,861,689 to \$38,523,478.

- **AP1. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nomination** – FIU Board of Trustees approval of one (1) candidate for Tenure as a Condition of Employment, as specified in the Board materials.
- **AP2. Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency Annual Report** - FIU Board of Trustees approval of the Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency Annual Report.
- **AP3. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-105 Sexual Harassment (Title IX) and Sexual Misconduct** - FIU Board of Trustees approval of the proposed amendments to Regulation FIU-105 Sexual Harassment (Title IX) and Sexual Misconduct, 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 or as a result of the regulation-making process.
- **AP4. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-106 Nondiscrimination, Harassment and Retaliation (Title VII)** - FIU Board of Trustees approval of the proposed amendments to Regulation FIU-106 Nondiscrimination, Harassment and Retaliation, 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 or as a result of the regulation-making process.
- **AP5. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-116 Educational Sites** - FIU Board of Trustees approval of the proposed amendments to Regulation FIU-116 Educational Sites, 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 or as a result of the regulation-making process.
- **G1. Board of Governors' Statement of Free Expression Endorsement Resolution** - Having reviewed the State University System of Florida Statement of Free Expression, FIU Board of Trustees endorsement of such statement.
- **G2. Board Appointments, Florida International University Children's Alliance for Research and Education, Inc.** - FIU Board of Trustees approval of the appointments of the individuals as included in the board materials, to the Florida International University Children's Alliance for Research and Education, Inc. Board of Directors.
- **G3. Board Appointments, Florida International University Foundation, Inc.** - FIU Board of Trustees approval of the appointments of the individuals as included in the board materials, to the Florida International University Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors.
- **G4. Approval of the Amendments to the Bylaws of the Florida International University Foundation, Inc.** – FIU Board of Trustees approval of the Amendments to the Bylaws of the Florida International University Foundation, Inc.

- **G5. Ratification of the Reopener to the 2024-2027 Florida International University Board of Trustees and the United Faculty of Florida-FIU Collective Bargaining Agreement** - FIU Board of Trustees (BOT) ratification of the reopener to the 2024-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the BOT and the United Faculty of Florida (UFF-FIU).
- **G6. Amendments to Omnibus Resolution on Delegations of Authority from the Board of Trustees to President** - FIU Board of Trustees approval of the amendments to the omnibus Resolution on the Delegations of Authority from the Board of Trustees to the President and delegate to the President authority to approve any subsequent non-material amendments prior to posting.
- **G8. University President's Goals, 2025-26** - FIU Board of Trustees adoption of the President's Performance and Incentive Goals for academic year 2025-26, specifically, that the Board of Trustees (i) affirms that the President's Performance Goals continue to be aligned with the University's goals (i.e., Accountability Plan) and (ii) adopts Performance Bonus Goals presented to the Governance Committee by President Nuñez.

## 6. Action Items

### **FF2. Approval of 2025-26 Education and General Carryforward Spending Plan and Related Certification**

Board Vice Chair and Finance and Facilities Committee Chair, Marc D. Sarnoff, pointed out that the Finance and Facilities Committee met earlier and engaged in a thorough review of the 2025-26 Education and General Carryforward Spending Plan. He added that the Committee recommended Board approval. There were no further questions from the Trustees.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the FIU Education and General (E&G) expenditure plan for carryforward funds in accordance with State University System of Florida Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 9.007 State University Operating Budgets and Requests and Florida Statute 1011.45 End of Year Balance of Funds; authorize the University Chief Financial Officer to certify the unexpended amount of funds appropriated to the University from the General Revenue Fund, the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund, and the E&G Student and Other Fees Trust Fund as of June 30, 2025; and authorize the University President to amend the BOT carryforward expenditure plan as necessary and report to the BOT and BOG any amendments to the spending plans in a format prescribed by the Chancellor of the BOG.

### **FF6. Approval of CasaCuba total project budget and authorization for the FIU Foundation to provide funding for the construction of CasaCuba at the Benjamín León, Jr. Building**

Board Vice Chair Sarnoff indicated that the Finance and Facilities Committee also reviewed the total project budget and authorization for the FIU Foundation to provide funding for the construction of CasaCuba at the Benjamín León, Jr. Building. He added that the Committee recommended Board approval. There were no further questions from the Trustees.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the total project budget and the FIU Foundation's proposed funding plan to provide the University access to funds to commence and complete the construction of CasaCuba. The plan will fund cash needs arising from the timing differential between capital pledge payments and expenses for the construction of the project.

**FF9. Authorization to Increase Project Budget for the Innovation II Facility from \$69.5M to \$100.6M**

Board Vice Chair Sarnoff noted that the Finance and Facilities Committee also reviewed the request to increase the project budget for the Innovation II facility from \$69.5M to \$100.6M. He added that the Committee recommended Board approval. There were no further questions from the Trustees.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees authorize the increase in the project budget for the Innovation II facility from \$69,500,000 to \$100,566,473.

**FF10. Authorization to increase budget for the Graham Center expansion from \$46.26M to \$56.26M and re-allocation of \$7.5M CITF from Aquatic Center project and \$2.5M CITF from Track Stadium project to Graham Center Expansion**

Board Vice Chair Sarnoff stated that the Finance and Facilities Committee also reviewed the request to increase the budget for the Graham Center expansion from \$46.26M to \$56.26M and re-allocation of \$7.5M CITF from the Aquatic Center project and \$2.5M CITF from the Track Stadium project to the Graham Center expansion. He added that the Committee recommended Board approval. There were no further questions from the Trustees.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees authorize the increase to the budget for the Graham Center Expansion from \$46,255,655 to \$56,255,655 and re-allocation of \$7.5M Capital Improvement Trust Fund (CITF) from the Aquatic Center Project and \$2.5M CITF from the Track Stadium Project to the Graham Center expansion.

**G7. President's Performance Bonus for Interim Presidency Tenure**

Board Chair Duart, Governance Committee Chair, pointed out that the Governance Committee met earlier and recommended that the Board of Trustees issue a performance bonus award of \$42,616.44 for President Nuñez in accordance with the Interim President Employment Agreement. There were no further questions from the Trustees.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees issue a performance bonus in the amount of \$42,616.44 for the President for the interim presidency term, in accordance with the President's employment agreement.

**7. Status Reports, Board Committees**

**Audit and Compliance Committee Report**

Trustee Alan Gonzalez, Audit and Compliance Committee Chair, provided highlights from the Committee's earlier meeting. He stated that Ms. Jennifer LaPorta, Chief Compliance and Privacy Officer, provided updates and information regarding the annual report and fourth quarter activities and initiatives. Committee Chair Gonzalez noted that the Committee welcomed Interim Chief Audit

Executive, Ms. Vivian F. Gonzalez. He added that Ms. Gonzalez reported on recently completed audits and also provided a follow-up status report on prior audit recommendations. Committee Chair Gonzalez indicated that there are eight (8) ongoing audits in various stages of completion.

### **Finance and Facilities Committee Report**

Board Vice Chair Sarnoff provided highlights from the Finance and Facilities Committee's earlier meeting. He noted that in addition to the agenda items approved by the Board, the Finance and Facilities Committee also reviewed and approved the following procurement actions: 1. Google and Meta purchase orders for the College of Business for advertising services not to exceed \$1.2M in Auxiliary per supplier per fiscal year; 2. piggyback five(5)-year contract with Huntington Technology Finance for \$1.97M, which will allow the University to migrate from the current product, Infoblox to Efficient IP to achieve substantial cost savings and support cloud environments with more virtual appliances not available with the current platform; 3. piggyback five(5)-year agreement with Qiagen for \$2.06M for the purchase of specialty lab supplies, equipment and related services through the myFIUmarket catalog with fixed discounts; 4. amendment, exceeding prior approval of \$1.4M, to the Blackbaud contract that will provide additional services for data cleaning and training for users of the platform that hosts donor and alumni records for FIU Advancement; and 5. Amendment to BetterMynd contract, for counseling and psychological services for students, bringing the total spend to over \$1.32M.

Board Vice Chair Sarnoff indicated that Interim Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer David H. Snider presented the financial performance for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2024-25 and reported that University operating revenues were below budget by \$21.7M or 1.3% and that operating expenses were below budget by \$120.5M or 7.3% resulting in a net favorable variance of \$98.8M. Board Vice Chair Sarnoff added that FIU's Annual Bonus Plan Report was included in the Reports section of the Finance and Facilities Committee's agenda materials and certifies that bonuses paid during the prior fiscal year have complied with the criteria in the bonus plan and that the bonuses were within the University's budget as approved by the Board of Trustees.

### **Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Report**

Trustee Dean C. Colson, Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Chair, provided highlights from the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee's earlier meeting.

### **Governance Committee Report**

Board Chair Duart provided highlights from the Governance Committee's earlier meeting.

### **8. New Business**

No new business was raised.

### **9. 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 Thursday, September 18 2025, at 2:16 PM.