



Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee
September 18, 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, September 18, 2025, at 11:33 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. Duarte, Board Chair; Alan Gonzalez; Jesus Lebeña; Yaffa Popack; Marc D. Sarnoff, Board Vice Chair; and Fred Voccola.

Provost, Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer, Elizabeth M. Bejar provided updates related to Florida International University being recognized in the book *Dream School: Finding the College That's Right for You* by Jeffery Selingo; recent faculty accomplishments highlighting FIU's impact in research, teaching, and global engagement; the launch of the FIU First Amendment Initiative and Combating Antisemitism Initiative led by the Office of the Provost; the fall 2025 first-time in college cohort profile with an average GPA of 4.27 and average SAT score of 1292; and internship week and the fall Career Fair.

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 June 12, 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 June 12, 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 candidate: Dr. Xavier Comas, who will be joining the Department of Earth and Environment in the College of Arts, Sciences and Education 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 candidate for Tenure as a Condition of Employment as specified in the Board materials.

AP2. Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Annual Report

Dr. Heather Russell, Vice Provost for Faculty Leadership and Success, presented the 2024-25 Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency annual report for Committee review. Vice Provost Russell stated that the University is in compliance, with 97% of textbooks adopted in fall 2024 and 95% in spring 2025, achieving the 95% threshold. She explained that all general education course syllabi are publicly available through the Simple Syllabus platform. She also noted that FIU's required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials are available via the University's Textbook and Instructional Materials search engine. Vice Provost Russell mentioned the Panther Book Pack Program through the partnership with Barnes & Noble, noting that around 10% fewer students are opting out each year since the program's inception. She noted collaborative approaches with FIU Enrollment Services, FIU Law, the Center for the Advancement of Teaching, and FIU Libraries.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the Florida International University Board of Trustees approval of the Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Annual Report.

AP3. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-105 Sexual Harassment (Title IX) and Sexual Misconduct

Associate General Counsel Ryan M. Kelley presented the proposed amendments to Regulation FIU-105 Sexual Harassment (Title IX) and Sexual Misconduct. He detailed that the proposed changes include updating terms and definitions to reflect recent guidance and enforcement; amending the term for employees who must report sexual harassment from "Responsible Employees" to "Mandatory Reporters"; and adding an additional Deputy Title IX Coordinator.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the FIU Board of Trustees approval of the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-105 Sexual Harassment (Title IX) and Sexual Misconduct.

AP4. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-106 Nondiscrimination, Harassment and Retaliation (Title VII)

Mr. Kelley presented the proposed amendments to Regulation FIU-106 Nondiscrimination, Harassment and Retaliation (Title VII). He described the proposed changes including defining the scope of the Regulation and its application to the University community; including additional internal citations to applicable state and federal law; including additional definitions and clarifications to terms and procedures; and delineating an alternative resolution process.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the FIU Board of Trustees approval of the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-106 Nondiscrimination, Harassment and Retaliation (Title VII).

AP5. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-116 Educational Sites

Mr. Kelley presented the proposed amendments to Regulation FIU-116 Educational Sites. He explained that the Regulation is being amended to align with changes made to Board of Governors Regulation 8.009. He stated that the Regulation sets forth procedures for the University to establish, reclassify, relocate, and close educational locations; provides procedures for approval related to establishing, reclassifying, relocating, and closing educational locations; defines the types of additional campuses and other classifications; and continues to require the monitoring of enrollment at additional campuses and sites.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the FIU Board of Trustees approval of the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-116 Educational Sites.

4. Information and Discussion Items: No Action Required

4.1 Student Government Updates

Trustee Francesca Casanova mentioned Panthers' First Night, the FIU Football team winning two (2) games at Pitbull Stadium, and the Inaugural FIU Pig Roast Competition. She commented that Student Government Association Chief Justice Noah Fineberg welcomed a delegation of over 50 student leaders from the National Union of Israeli Students in Washington D.C., participated in various tours and meetings, and received a certificate of recognition thanking FIU working to combat antisemitism on campus.

4.2 Faculty Senate Updates

Trustee Noël C. Barengo stated that the Faculty Senate and its Steering Committee have convened twice since the June 12, 2025, FIU Board of Trustees Meetings. He noted that in August, a Special Meeting of the Faculty Senate was held to review and approve revisions to two (2) Graduate School policies. He commented that Mr. David Chatfield was confirmed as the Faculty Senate's Governmental Liaison and Mr. Nathan Dodge was confirmed as Parliamentarian and Sergeant-at-Arms. Trustee Barengo acknowledged that University President Jeanette M. Nuñez attended the first regular Faculty Senate meeting of the fall 2025 semester. He mentioned a joint initiative between Provost Bejar and the Faculty Senate titled "What Does It Mean to Be Faculty in the 21st Century?"; Faculty Convocation on Monday, October 6, 2025; and a Faculty Get-Together on September 18, 2025, at the Biscayne Bay Campus, sponsored by the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.

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, September 18, 2025, at 12:00 PM.

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