



Full Board  
April 20, 2026  
Zoom

## 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 10:01 AM on Monday, April 20, 2026.

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*; Alan Gonzalez, *Board Vice Chair*; Noël C. Barengo; Francesca Casanova; Tila Falic-Levi; George Heisel; Jesus Lebeña; Patrick McDowell; Alexander M. Peraza; Yaffa Popack; Alberto R. Taño; and Fred Voccola.

Trustee Nestor Plana was excused.

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 public appearances.

### 3. Action Items

#### BT1. FIU Annual Accountability Plan, 2026

Board Vice Chair and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, Alan Gonzalez, indicated that each year the FIU Board of Trustees is required to review, approve, and submit its Accountability Plan to the Florida Board of Governors (BOG). He added that the Accountability Plan outlines FIU's top priorities and strategic directions and reports on progress toward previously approved institutional and system-wide goals. Board Vice Chair Gonzalez pointed out that the Accountability Plan is due to the BOG on May 1, 2026.

Provost and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar explained that FIU's Accountability Plan is closely aligned with the BOG's 2030 System Strategic Plan and enhances the System's

commitment to accountability and strategic planning by fostering greater coordination between institutional administrators, university boards of trustees, and the BOG regarding each institution's direction and priorities as well as performance expectations and outcomes on institutional and system-wide goals. Provost Bejar presented FIU's 2026 Accountability Plan for the Board's review. She commented on FIU's Statement of Strategy and provided an overview of progress in areas of expertise and on the preliminary values and points related to the 10 BOG Performance Based Funding metrics. She stated that while the BOG changed the definitions pertaining to two (2) metrics, specifically metric 6- Bachelor's in Strategic Areas and metric 8- Graduate Degrees in Strategic Areas, the changes do not take effect until next year's reporting cycle. Provost Bejar pointed out that FIU's Accountability Plan will be submitted to the BOG reflecting 97 total points out of the possible 100. She also presented an overview of preliminary values and points related to the BOG's 13 Preeminence metrics. She noted that State University System of Florida (SUS) institutions must earn and retain preeminence status on an annual basis. Provost Bejar further stated that FIU met all of the benchmarks of what is needed to achieve preeminence. She added that while progress has been made on the metric related to endowment size, this was the only preeminence metric that was not met.

Provost Bejar presented an overview of FIU's past enrollment as well as projections for future enrollment, noting that the University plans to maintain a degree-seeking student body of approximately 50,000. She stated that the BOG asked SUS institutions to submit values for new metrics, which fall under the broader categories of Key Performance Indicators and Operational Excellence. She referred to several KPIs included in the list and Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer David H. Snider commented on metrics related to Operational Excellence.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve Florida International University's Annual Accountability Plan as provided in the Board materials and delegate authority to the University President to perform finish editing as needed and to amend consistent with comments received from the Florida Board of Governors.

**BT2. Updated Continued Exclusion of Trustees other than the Board Chair, Vice Chair and President, installment of the President as the Senior Management Official and updated composition of the Key Management Personnel**

Chair of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee, Albert R. Taño, explained that by previous resolutions, most recently on February 26, 2026, the Board of Trustees excluded all members – except for the Chair and Vice Chair – from the requirements associated with obtaining a personnel security clearance. Provost Bejar indicated that the proposed resolution updates FIU's federally required security clearance designations, installs the University President as the Senior Management Official in having final authority as required by the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (NISPOM) and updates the composition of the Key Management Personnel to include the President.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees (BOT) adopt the Resolution that updates the exclusion of the named members of the FIU BOT and excludes the BOT Corporate Secretary from the requirements for a personnel security clearance, installs the President as the Senior Management Official and updates the composition of the Key Management Personnel.

**BT3. Amended Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Florida International University Children's Alliance for Research and Education, Inc.**

Board Chair Duart commented that beginning in 2024, FIU and Nicklaus embarked on establishing a Comprehensive Pediatric Affiliation. He added that this effort culminated in the FIU Board of Trustees, on February 13, 2025, unanimously approving the University President to finalize and execute the FIU-Nicklaus Comprehensive Pediatric Agreement; and creating the FIU Children's Alliance for Research and Education, Inc. (FIU-CARE) support organization. Board Chair Duart added that on March 7, 2025, FIU and Nicklaus signed the Comprehensive Pediatric Agreement.

Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Dr. Juan C. Cendan, provided an overview of the timeline relating to FIU's clinical partnership journey, status of process to date, and partnership terms and framework. He commented that FIU-CARE will function primarily as a neutral support organization that will deploy and receive mission support. He added that FIU and Nicklaus will have equal representation on the FIU-CARE Board of Directors with four (4) appointees each. He delineated the next steps in terms of finalizing the sub-agreements and beginning the implementation of the partnership. He indicated that the process brought to light the need to amend the initial Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of FIU-CARE and that said amendments were approved by the FIU-CARE Board of Directors on April 10, 2026. Dean and Sr. VP Cendan commented that the proposed amendments provide the structure to operationalize co-governance with Nicklaus while preserving FIU's statutory authority, financial protections, and academic controls and anchor FIU-CARE's governance with a comprehensive pediatric agreement ensuring structural consistency.

General Counsel Castillo presented an overview of the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of FIU-CARE for the Board's review. He delineated three (3) changes related to membership provisions: (1) confirming equal Board composition of FIU-CARE with four (4) directors appointed by FIU and four (4) directors appointed by Nicklaus; (2) clarifying that a director's automatic resignation occurs upon separation from employment, and for Nicklaus-appointed directors, also upon the termination or expiration of the Comprehensive Pediatric Agreement; and (3) addressing vacancies and removal by providing that Nicklaus will recommend the appointment and removal of its directors, with such actions vested in the CEO of Nicklaus. General Counsel Castillo also addressed parallel changes to the Executive Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee to include two (2) Nicklaus-appointed directors recommended by the Nicklaus CEO. He indicated that the Executive Committee would consist of six (6) members (four (4) FIU and two (2) Nicklaus) and the Finance and Audit Committee will consist of five (5)

members (three (3) FIU and two (2) Nicklaus). He noted that the FIU-CARE Board approved the amendments unanimously on April 10, 2026, and that President Nuñez has also provided her approval.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the Florida International University Children's Alliance for Research and Education, Inc. (FIU CARE) amended Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

#### **4. New Business**

##### **BT4. Honorary Degree Nomination**

Committee Chair Taño indicated that the FIU Faculty Senate approved a nomination for an Honorary Degree for Willy Chirino on April 14, 2026. He added that the nominee was approved by the University President and Provost to receive an honorary degree at Commencement.

Provost Bejar presented the nomination of Willy Chirino for the honorary degree of Doctor of Music, *honoris causa*, for the Board's review. She stated that the nomination came with broad and enthusiastic support across the University community, and that the nomination packet included letters from the Wertheim School of Music and Performing Arts, FIU CasaCuba, and distinguished community leaders. Provost Bejar noted that Mr. Chirino has been described as one of the most influential figures in Latin American music and is recognized worldwide as the creator of the "Miami Sound". She highlighted his career spanning more than 50 years and explained that Mr. Chirino's work extends beyond artistic excellence, serving as a cultural chronicle of the Cuban exile experience and a voice for human rights, and that his humanitarian efforts have been recognized by UNICEF, the U.S. Legion of Honor, and the International Republican Institute. She stated that Mr. Chirino has longstanding ties to FIU and embodies the values FIU seeks to honor—artistic innovation, cultural leadership, humanitarian commitment, and a deep connection to the community.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees endorse the nomination of Willy Chirino for the honorary degree of Doctor of Music, *honoris causa*, to be conferred at Commencement.

#### **5. 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 Monday, April 20, 2026, at 10:41 AM.