



Full Board
April 7, 2026

FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms

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 4:04 PM on Tuesday, April 7, 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 (*Zoom*); George Heisel (*Zoom*); Jesus Lebeña; Patrick McDowell; Alexander M. Peraza; Nestor Plana (*Zoom*); Yaffa Popack (*Zoom*); Albert R. Taño; and Fred Voccola (*Zoom*).

Board Chair Duart welcomed all Trustees and members of the University administration. He extended a warm welcome to Dr. Herbert A. Wertheim and Mr. Matthew A. Love, President and CEO of Nicklaus Children's Health System. Board Chair Duart also welcomed the University community.

Board Chair Duart stated that Section 6.9 of the Board's Bylaws provides that the Board Chair may, in consultation with the University President, allow an item to be presented to the Full Board without prior consideration by a Board committee when circumstances warrant. Board Chair Duart added that proceeding directly to a Full Board meeting without a prior committee meeting would provide the most expeditious and efficient means by which to review the agenda item.

2. Public Appearances

At the request of Board Chair Duart, General Counsel Castillo addressed the public appearance requests. General Counsel Castillo explained that Section 9 of the Board of Trustees Bylaws governs public appearances before the Board of Trustees and sets forth registration procedures, time limits for speakers, and rules of decorum. He delineated the rules of decorum. General Counsel Castillo commented that, pursuant to Section 9.1 of the Bylaws, a person who desires to be heard on a matter before the Board must register by 11:00 AM on the business day before the subject meeting by completing a public comment form. General Counsel Castillo indicated that as of 11:00 AM on Monday, April 6, 2026, seven (7) requests to address the Board were received.

Board Chair Duart reiterated that speakers are to confine their comments to the proposition before the Board, BT1. Naming of BT-942 Clinical Partnership Building as the “Helen and Jacob Shaham Academic Medical Center”. He added that he will warn speakers if their comments have gone beyond the subject matter on the agenda and that if a speaker persists in addressing irrelevant topics, he will turn off the microphone to ensure that the Board can proceed with its business.

The following individuals addressed the Board after their names were called:

- Andres Sanchez – Expressed his concerns regarding the displacement of on-campus student housing to accommodate the new clinical partnership building.
- Reinier Luna, Angel Ares, Mia Reynolds, Emmanuel Morgan, and Kaitlyn Daley – Provided comments not confined to the proposition before the Board.

Board Chair Duart commented that the on- and off-campus student residence projects currently under development will increase capacity and help meet the demand for student housing.

1. Call to Order and Chair’s Remarks *(Continued...)*

Board Chair Duart expressed his appreciation of the Florida Legislature’s support in making the Academic Medical Center project possible. He added that FIU is now taking another important step forward with a significant action item, the naming of BT-942 Clinical Partnership Building as the “Helen and Jacob Shaham Academic Medical Center”. Board Chair Duart welcomed Helen and Jacob Shaham and the members of the Shaham family who were in attendance. He commented that Helen and Jacob Shaham are leaders in the community, visionaries who have redefined the standard of care in South Florida, and that since founding The Palace Group in 1980, have built a legacy of excellence in senior living that is recognized both nationally and internationally. Board Chair Duart remarked that Helen and Jacob have dedicated their lives to philanthropy, focusing on the most vulnerable members of the community and that their extraordinary generosity marks a new chapter for FIU Medicine.

3. Action Item

BT1. Naming of BT-942 Clinical Partnership Building as the “Helen and Jacob Shaham Academic Medical Center”

Trustee Jesus Lebeña, Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee, indicated that in recognition of the Shahams’ transformative gift, the University proposes naming the clinical partnership building as the “Helen and Jacob Shaham Academic Medical Center”.

Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Juan C. Cendan commented on the \$30M unrestricted gift from Helen and Jacob Shaham to establish the Endowment for Excellence within the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (HWCAM). He added that the University proposes that the gift be recognized with the naming of the clinical partnership building BT-942 as the “Helen and Jacob Shaham Academic Medical

Center”. He indicated that the gift would support academic programs, adding \$20M to HWCOT’s endowment corpus and providing \$10M for operational funds. Dean and Sr. VP Cendan pointed out that, pursuant to the University’s Donative Naming Policy, the University’s Senior Vice President for University Advancement, Provost, CFO and President have recommended and approved the naming as the “Helen and Jacob Shaham Academic Medical Center”. He added that the FIU Foundation Inc., Board of Directors, has approved the gift and naming rights agreement. Dean and Sr. VP Cendan remarked on significant state appropriations received for the construction of the building and the progress on the work site with the building scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2028. He presented, for illustrative purposes, a mockup of the external signage.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees authorize and approve the naming of BT-942 Clinical Partnership Building as the “Helen and Jacob Shaham Academic Medical Center”, in accordance with the gift agreement related thereto and the University’s and the FIU Foundation, Inc.’s Donative Naming Policy.

Mrs. Shaham expressed her appreciation to the Board of Trustees and stated that it was a privilege to share FIU's vision.

4. New Business

No new business was raised.

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 Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 4:30 PM.