Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee
February 26, 2026
FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center 243

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 Albert R. Taño on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 3:11 PM.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee members and verified a quorum. Present were Trustees Albert R. Taño, *Committee Chair*; Yaffa Popack, *Committee Vice Chair*; Noël C. Barengo; Francesca Casanova; and Tila Falic-Levi.

The following Board members were also in attendance: Trustees Carlos A. Duart, Board Chair; Alan Gonzalez, Board Vice Chair; George Heisel; Jesus Lebeña; Patrick McDowell; Alexander M. Peraza; and Nestor Plana.

Provost, Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer, Elizabeth M. Bejar provided updates related to the accomplishments of faculty, researchers, and alumni reflecting the impact of FIU scholarship across disciplines.

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2. Approval of Minutes
Committee Chair Taño asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on November 20, 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 November 20, 2025.

3. Action Items
AP1. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nomination
Committee Chair Taño commented on the Tenure as a Condition of Employment (TACOE) process. Provost Bejar commented on the TACOE candidate: Dr. Jack Puleo, who will be joining the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering within the College of Engineering and Computing 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.

AP2. Program Termination: Bachelor of Arts in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Provost Bejar presented the proposal from the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in Latin American and Caribbean Studies; noting that the program enrolls seven (7) students who may remain enrolled and finish the degree by a final phaseout term of fall 2031 or transition into a related program.

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 the termination of the Bachelor of Arts in Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

AP3. Program Termination: Bachelor of Arts in Global Educational Studies
Provost Bejar presented the proposal from the College of Arts, Sciences, and Education to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in Global Educational Studies; noting that the program enrolls no students and that several courses will continue to be available within other existing degree programs.

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 the termination of the Bachelor of Arts in Global Educational Studies.

AP4. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-105 Sexual Harassment (Title IX) and Sexual Misconduct
General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo stated that the proposed changes to Regulation FIU-105 Sexual Harassment (Title IX) and Sexual Misconduct include updating the Title IX Coordinator and list of Deputy Title IX Coordinators and grammatical improvements.

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 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 (BOG) or as a result of the regulation-making process.

AP5. Proposed Regulation FIU-1302 Florida Residency Status for Tuition Purposes
General Counsel Castillo presented the proposed Regulation FIU-1302 Florida Residency Status for Tuition Purposes. He mentioned that the Regulation is established in accordance with BOG Regulation 7.005, federal law, section 1009.21, and Florida Statutes. He explained that the proposed Regulation clarifies that admitted students seeking classification as a Florida resident for tuition purposes must submit a residency declaration; defines responsible offices, required documentation, and submission deadlines; requires acknowledgement of having reviewed a written notice outlining penalties for intentional fraud or misrepresentation of residency status; and includes a formal appeals process.

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 the proposed Regulation FIU-1302 Florida Residency Status for Tuition Purposes, and delegation of authority to

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the University President to approve any subsequent non-material amendments based on comments to the Regulation received from the BOG or as a result of the regulation making process.

4. Information and Discussion Items: No Action Required

4.1 Alternative Admissions

Provost Bejar presented the discussion item on alternative admissions, outlined in regulation FIU-412 Undergraduate Admissions. She provided background information related to alternative admissions and an overview of the process of holistic review or exception. Provost Bejar noted that exceptions were approximately 1% of 14, 438 total admitted students with second year retention for alternative admissions at 89.2% comparable to the overall retention of 91%. She noted the on-going graduation rate mentioning that there are no concerns.

4.2 Student Government Updates

Trustee Francesca Casanova reported on Student Government Association elections, and activity and service fee allocations, noting the establishment of the FIU Government Fellows program.

4.3 Faculty Senate Updates

Trustee Noël C. Barengo reported on Faculty Senate receiving applications for the 2026 Summer Research Award, monitoring proposed changes affecting H-1B hiring, noting actions related to shared governance and academic freedom, and Faculty Senate elections.

5. Academic Affairs Regular Reports: For Information Only

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 Albert R. Taño adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 3:43 PM.

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