Full Board
July 30, 2026
Online Meeting

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 10:08 AM on Thursday, July 30, 2026.

Acting General Counsel Ryan Kelley 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; Tila Falic-Levi; George Heisel; Jesus Lebeña; Patrick McDowell; Alyssa Mederos; Alexander M. Peraza; Nestor Plana; Yaffa Popack; Albert R. Taño and Fred Voccola.

Board Chair Duart welcomed all Trustees, members of the University administration, and the University community. 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 agenda items.

2. Public Appearances

At the request of Board Chair Duart, Acting General Counsel Kelley addressed the public appearance requests. Acting General Counsel Kelley 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. Acting General Counsel Kelley 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. Acting General Counsel Kelley indicated that as of 11:00 AM on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, one (1) request to address the Board was timely received. The following individual addressed the Board after their name was called:

- Mike Sanderson addressed agenda item 3.1 and raised concerns regarding the proposed quantum computing system, including the use of carryforward funds, potential Board of Governors approval requirements, future budget commitments, and the risk of technological obsolescence.

3. Action Items

3.1 Legislative Budget Requests, 2027-28

Trustee Albert R. Taño, Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Chair, introduced agenda item 3.1, the 2027-28 Legislative Budget Requests. He explained that the Florida Board of Governors requires State University System institutions to submit their Legislative Budget Requests to their respective boards of trustees for review and approval prior to submission to the Board of Governors.

Provost and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar presented the 2027-28 Legislative Budget Requests, noting that the action items did not include previously approved Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) requests or any other initiatives that may be before the Legislature. She explained that the Legislative Budget Requests serve as a framework for discussions with state leadership regarding FIU's continued success and strategic priorities. Provost Bejar stated that the proposed requests support FIU's role in advancing excellence for the future of Florida and are aligned with the University's long-term strategic goals. She then provided an overview of the Legislative Budget Requests included in the Board materials, which focused on operational excellence; disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience; defense, national security, and intelligence; and industry partnerships and new technology commercialization.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the 2027-2028 Legislative Budget Requests as included in the Board materials.

3.2 IonQ Quantum Computing System and Related Agreements

Trustee Jesus Lebeña, Finance and Facilities Committee Chair, introduced agenda item 3.2, the IonQ Quantum Computing System and Related Agreements. Trustee Lebeña explained that the proposed purchase would expand FIU's computing capacity and support the University's strategic priorities. He noted that FIU and IonQ had negotiated a non-binding term sheet setting forth the material terms for the proposed purchase.

Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer David H. Snider, Jr. provided an overview of the proposed IonQ quantum computing system, including the anticipated financial terms, potential funding source, ownership structure, and related implementation considerations. He explained that the proposed transaction would authorize the University to negotiate and execute a purchase agreement and related agreements with IonQ, Inc. for a quantum computing system. He noted that the proposed gross purchase price is $25M, payable over multiple fiscal years, with funding anticipated from carryforward funds and subject to inclusion in the carryforward spending plan to be presented to the Board of Trustees. He further explained that FIU would hold an option that could reduce the University's net cost if exercised, while noting that Board of Trustees approval was being requested based on the full potential financial exposure. Sr. VP and CFO Snider stated that title to the system would transfer to FIU upon installation and that additional build-out and operating costs would be addressed separately. He emphasized that the acquisition would support FIU's strategic priorities in research, innovation, workforce development, and national security; complement existing quantum and high-performance computing activities in Florida; and strengthen the University's ability to pursue state and federal opportunities in quantum information science and technology.

Trustees discussed the procurement review process, the non-binding nature of the term sheet, and the anticipated funding approach. Trustees emphasized the importance of involving the Chief Procurement Officer in the review and negotiation of the definitive agreements to help ensure that the terms and conditions are favorable to FIU. Trustees also requested additional information regarding the technical rationale for the proposed system, including the comparison between an on-campus system and cloud-based alternatives, potential exclusivity or upgrade provisions, and commercialization or cost-recovery opportunities. University administration confirmed that the term sheet was non-binding and that, if approved, the University would continue to negotiate and execute the definitive agreements without returning to the Board of Trustees for separate approval of the final purchase agreement. University administration indicated that the Chief Procurement Officer would be involved going forward. Trustees also expressed support for moving forward with negotiations, and President Jeanette M. Nuñez stated that interested Board members would be contacted to participate in a technical briefing with appropriate University experts.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the terms and authorize the negotiation and execution of a purchase agreement, and any related agreements, between FIU and IonQ, Inc. for an IonQ Quantum computing system, and delegate authority to the University President, or designee, to execute the purchase agreement and all other documents that may be necessary to effectuate the transactions contemplated in the agreement, on behalf of the FIU Board of Trustees.

4. New Business
No new business was raised.

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment
Trustee George Heisel commended FIU's participation at a recent event in Peru and recognized the leadership and contributions of President Nuñez, Carlos Díaz-Rosillo, Founding Director of the FIU Adam Smith Center for Academic Freedom, and the Center's team.

Board Chair Duart reminded Trustees of upcoming University events, including Panthers F1rst Night on August 24 at Pitbull Stadium, the start of the FIU football season, the home opener on September 12, the FIU Pig Roast tailgate on September 26, Homecoming on November 7, and the next regularly scheduled committee and Full Board meetings on September 17 at FIU's Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

With no other business, Board Chair Carlos A. Duart adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Full Board on Thursday, July 30, 2026, at 11:08 AM.