



Full Board
June 18, 2026
FIU, Biscayne Bay Campus, Wolfe University Center Ballrooms

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

Board Chair Carlos A. Duarte convened the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees at 4:05 PM on Thursday, June 18, 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. Duarte, *Board Chair*; Alan Gonzalez, *Board Vice Chair*; Noël C. Barengo; George Heisel; Jesus Lebeña; Patrick McDowell; Alyssa Mederos; Alexander M. Peraza; Nestor Plana; Yaffa Popack; and Fred Voccola (*Zoom*).

Trustee Albert R. Taño was excused.

Board Chair Duarte welcomed all Trustees, members of the University administration, and the University community to FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus (BBC). He remarked that the campus reflects FIU's identity as a top-tier public research university, with impactful work taking place in environmental monitoring, coastal restoration, and the protection of South Florida's natural resources. Board Chair Duarte highlighted the recent grand opening of two state-of-the-art facilities at FIU's Institute of Environment at BBC: the Marine Robotics and Autonomous Systems Lab and the Coastal Conservation and Restoration Lab. He also recognized that BBC is home to the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. He noted that, in the latest QS World University Rankings, FIU's hospitality program ranked No. 3 among U.S. public universities, No. 23 in the world, and No. 1 in Florida.

Board Chair Duarte welcomed Alyssa Mederos as the new student representative on the Board. He noted that Trustee Mederos began her term on May 11, 2026, and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Political Science on a pre-law track through the Honors College while also completing an accelerated master's degree in Public Administration.

Board Chair Duarte also recognized Mr. Adalio T. Sanchez, who is concluding his service as Chair of the FIU Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors effective June 30, 2026. Board Chair Duarte acknowledged Mr. Sanchez's longstanding service to the Foundation Board since 2001 and expressed appreciation for his leadership and commitment to FIU.

Board Chair Duart commented that the Florida Board of Governors Trustee Summit will be held at FIU on November 12, 2026 and encouraged full Trustee participation.

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, June 17, 2026, two (2) requests to address the Board were timely received. The following individual addressed the Board after their name was called:

- Carlton Daley addressed agenda item FF4 and spoke in opposition to the proposed establishment of the International Student Service Fee for F-1 Visa Students.

3. Foundation Report

FIU Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors Chair Adalio T. Sanchez presented highlights from the recent FIU Foundation Board of Directors meeting, which was held in Boston, Massachusetts, in conjunction with an alumni event. He noted that the meeting marked the conclusion of several officer terms, including his own, as well as those of Vice Chair and former Trustee Gerald C. Grant, Jr. and Secretary Jill M. Granat. Chair Sanchez reported that the Foundation Board elected officers for the upcoming fiscal year, effective July 1, 2026, including Marcel L. Navarro as Chair, Andre L. Teixeira as Vice Chair, Cristina di Mauro as Treasurer, and Hugo Mantilla as Secretary.

Chair Sanchez highlighted continued progress in alumni engagement and referenced signature programs as examples of initiatives strengthening alumni affinity, lifelong engagement, and the philanthropic pipeline. Chair Sanchez reported that, to date, FIU had raised \$88.9M toward its fiscal year 2025-26 fundraising goal of \$90M, with approximately \$7M in additional commitments accepted and awaiting signatures. He also reported significant progress in annual giving, which has grown by 300% over the last three fiscal years and is expected to generate nearly \$3M this year. He added that FIU Give Day generated \$734,000 from nearly 1,500 donors and that FIU achieved a 55% second-time donor retention rate, reflecting the strength of the Foundation's donor engagement strategy.

Chair Sanchez provided an update on staffing and recruitment, noting that, since July, the Foundation had hired 40 new full-time employees, including 13 development officers and a new Assistant Vice President, with 14 positions remaining to be filled. He also reported that, as of April 30, 2026, philanthropy totaled \$74.9M and cash received totaled \$35.4M. He stated that

the Foundation's investment portfolio continued to perform well, with year-to-date returns of 12.2% net of fees as of April 30, 2026, compared to the policy benchmark of 10.4%. He added that Foundation assets totaled \$555M, including an investment portfolio of \$494M and an endowment of \$430M.

Chair Sanchez expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve alongside dedicated volunteers and leaders in support of FIU and reflected on the Foundation's progress during his tenure as Chair. He noted that the Foundation had strengthened its leadership, processes, fundraising engine, governance, succession planning, and culture of participation in partnership with the Board of Trustees and University leadership. He highlighted progress on key institutional priorities and noted that, while work remains, the Foundation is well positioned to focus on fundraising excellence, continued endowment growth, and preparation for a future campaign. He thanked the Board of Trustees and University leadership for their support and expressed confidence in the Foundation's incoming leadership.

4. President's Report

President Nuñez provided highlights regarding recent University activities, accomplishments, and leadership appointments. She welcomed Joey Cantens as FIU's tenth head men's basketball coach, noting his connection to FIU, successful tenure at Daytona State College, and early recruiting success. She also welcomed new head baseball coach Pedro Grifol and new head softball coach Olivia Watkins, and expressed appreciation to Coach Mike Larabee upon his retirement.

President Nuñez thanked Trustees for their advocacy and support in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C., and recognized Congresswoman Frederica Wilson for her longstanding support of FIU. President Nuñez highlighted several recent philanthropic and institutional milestones, including the gift from Jacob and Helen Shaham in support of the FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, continued construction progress on campus, and the groundbreaking for CasaCuba. She also discussed the launch of SOAR, Supporting Outstanding Academic Results, as a fundraising initiative designed to provide flexible support for students and academic priorities, and thanked early Trustee supporters.

President Nuñez invited participation in FIU's America 250 time capsule initiative and emphasized the importance of creating meaningful opportunities for alumni and community engagement. She also highlighted FIU's role in convening national and international leaders, citing recent events hosted by the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom and the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy as examples of FIU's academic and policy expertise in areas including economic freedom, hemispheric security, national defense, democracy, and emerging global challenges.

President Nuñez further highlighted FIU's leadership in disaster preparedness and emergency management, as well as University engagement on human trafficking prevention in connection with major global events. She also referenced FIU's involvement in World Cup-related activities and alumni participation in tournament preparations. President Nuñez concluded by recognizing the Spring commencement ceremonies, during which nearly 6,000 students graduated. She highlighted notable graduates and student achievements and reflected on the honorary degree conferred upon Willie Chirino, noting the significance of commencement as a celebration of FIU's impact on students, families, and the broader community.

5. Action Items – Consent Agenda

Board Chair Duart indicated that, in addition to Full Board minutes, the Consent Agenda includes agenda item AC1 recommended for Board approval by the Audit and Compliance Committee, agenda items FF2 – FF15 recommended for Board approval by the Finance and Facilities Committee, and agenda items AP1 – AP6 recommended for Board approval by the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to accept the Consent Agenda, and members of the Board approved the following actions:

- **BT1. Minutes, February 26, 2026:** Approval of Minutes of the FIU Board of Trustees, Full Board meeting held on February 26, 2026.
- **BT2. Minutes, March 2026 Retreat:** Approval of Minutes of the FIU Board of Trustees, March 2026 Retreat.
- **BT3. Minutes, April 7, 2026:** Approval of Minutes of the FIU Board of Trustees, Full Board meeting held on April 7, 2026.
- **BT4. Minutes, April 20, 2026:** Approval of Minutes of the FIU Board of Trustees, Full Board meeting held on April 20, 2026.
- **AC1. Compliance and Ethics Charter for the Office of University Compliance and Integrity:** Approval of the proposed revisions to the Compliance and Ethics Charter for the Office of University Compliance and Integrity.
- **FF2. Appropriated Fixed Capital Outlay Budget/Capital Improvement, 2026-27:** Approval of FIU's 2026-27 Appropriated Fixed Capital Outlay Budget (pending Governor's approval) and authorization for the University President to amend the budget as necessary, consistent with Legislative, Florida Board of Governors' and FIU Board of Trustees directives and guidelines.

- **FF3. FIU 2027-28 Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request, Consisting of the five-year Capital Improvement Plan:** Approval of FIU's 2027-28 Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request, consisting of the five-year Capital Improvement Plan and authorization for the University President to amend the Legislative Budget Request as necessary, consistent with Florida Board of Governors and FIU Board of Trustees directives and guidelines.
- **FF4. Establishment of International Student Service Fee for F-1 Visa Students:** Approval to establish a \$75 per semester International Student Service Fee for all F-1 visa degree-seeking students, effective Fall 2026.
- **FF5. Educational Plant Survey:** Approval of the FIU 2026-2031 Educational Plant Survey, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031, and authorization to transmit the approved Survey to the Florida Board of Governors for validation in accordance with section 1013.31, Florida Statutes. The approved Survey may be amended thereafter at the request of the FIU Board of Trustees should the University's facility needs change during the five-year Survey period.
- **FF6. Designation of the National Forensic Science Technology Center as a Special Purpose Center:** Approval of the designation of the National Forensic Science Technology Center as a Special Purpose Center, in accordance with FIU Board of Trustees and Florida Board of Governors Regulation.
- **FF7. Second Amendment to Lease with Iskalo Asset Fund LLC for Location at 4600 Main Street, Snyder, New York:** Approval for (1) the second renewal of a Lease Agreement for a location for FIU at 4600 Main Street, Snyder, New York; (2) the delegation of authority to the University President, or her designee, to negotiate the Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement; (3) the delegation of authority to the University President, or her designee, to exercise in the future the remaining renewal option under the Lease Agreement, and (4) the execution of the Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement on behalf of the University and all other documents that may be necessary now or in the future to effectuate the transactions contemplated therein.
- **FF8. Transfer of Jewish Museum of Florida - FIU to Jewish Museum of Florida, Inc.:** Approval of the Transfer Agreement and Affiliation Agreement as provided in the Board materials; delegation of authority to the University President and the Foundation CEO to take all actions and steps to execute all instruments, documents, and contracts and to take all other actions necessary in connection with the transfer of the Jewish Museum of Florida - FIU to the Jewish Museum of Florida, Inc.; and approval of the closure of the Jewish Museum of Florida - FIU as a Special Purpose Center and request the Florida Board of Governors to approve such closure.

- **FF9. Replacement Lease for the FIU Downtown on Brickell Leased Premises:** Approval of a replacement lease for the space occupied by FIU's College of Business at 1101 Brickell Avenue, Miami, Florida; and delegation of authority to the University President, or her designee, to negotiate and execute the replacement lease on behalf of the University and all other documents that may be necessary to effectuate the transaction described above.
- **FF10. Creation and Certification of the FIU Real Estate Foundation, Inc. as a University Direct Support Organization:** (1) Approval of the establishment and incorporation of "The Florida International University Real Estate Foundation, Inc." as a Florida not-for-profit corporation, (2) certification of the corporation as a university direct-support organization of Florida International University pursuant to Section 1004.28, Florida Statutes, (3) approval of the corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws in substantially the form attached hereto (with such non-substantive changes, additions, and modifications as may be approved by the President or her designee in consultation with the Office of the General Counsel), (4) authorization for University staff, in coordination with the Office of the General Counsel, to prepare and execute such documents, agreements, and instruments as may be reasonably necessary or desirable to transfer or convey real property currently held by or for the benefit of FIU to the Corporation, subject to any applicable approvals required under Florida Statutes and Board of Governors and FIU regulations and procedures, and (5) delegation of authority to the University President or her designee to take all further actions and execute all documents as may be necessary to effectuate the matters contemplated herein.
- **FF11. Contract Renewal #PUR-04000 for Grounds Maintenance with Aramark Management Services Limited Partnership:** Pursuant to the Delegations of Authority from the Florida International University Board of Trustees to the University President, as reflected in the Resolution on the President's Powers and Duties approved by the Board of Trustees on September 18, 2025, approval of, as listed and described in the Board materials, the University entering into the contracts and purchase orders and/or change orders to the purchase orders ("Contracts") and authorize the University President or her designee to execute, on behalf of the University, the aforementioned Contracts and any future option, renewal, extension, or amendment to a Contract and provide after the fact notice to the Finance and Facilities Committee, so long as the additional expenditure does not increase the amount of the transaction more than 10% of the approved value.
- **FF12. Updated Selection Procedures for Architects/Engineers, General Contractors, and Construction Managers:** Approval of updated selection procedures for architects/engineers, general contractors and construction managers to incorporate litigation searches as a background due diligence measure and other ministerial changes; authorization for the University President or her designee to execute, on behalf of the

University, all documents and take all actions that may be necessary to effectuate the competitive selections and negotiations pursuant to said updated procedures; and delegation of authority to the University President or her designee to approve future revisions to the selection procedures that are ministerial or administrative in nature.

- **FF13. Forgiveness of the Intracompany Loan Balance Between FIU and FIU Intercollegiate Athletics:** Approval of the forgiveness, effective June 30, 2026, of the outstanding combined intracompany loan balance between FIU and FIU Intercollegiate Athletics in the amount of \$9,054,788.79, representing the outstanding balance remaining after application of the scheduled fiscal year 2025-26 principal and interest payment of \$550,000 remitted by FIU Intercollegiate Athletics to FIU Treasury Operations on June 15, 2026, pursuant to the existing amortization schedule.
- **FF14. Contract #PUR-11669, Air Planning, LLC:** Pursuant to the Delegations of Authority from the FIU Board of Trustees to the University President, as reflected in the Resolution on the President's Powers and Duties approved by the Board of Trustees on September 18, 2025, approval of, as listed and described in the Board materials, the University entering into the contracts and purchase orders and/or change orders to the purchase orders ("Contracts") and authorize the University President or her designee to execute, on behalf of the University, the aforementioned Contracts and any future option, renewal, extension, or amendment to a Contract and provide after the fact notice to the Finance and Facilities Committee, so long as the additional expenditure does not increase the amount of the transaction more than 10% of the approved value or to the next procurement delegations amount.
- **FF15. Renewal of the Canvas Learning Management System with Instructure, Inc.:** Pursuant to the Delegations of Authority from the FIU Board of Trustees to the University President, as reflected in the Resolution on the President's Powers and Duties approved by the Board of Trustees on September 18, 2025, approval of, as listed and described in the Board materials, the University entering into the contracts and purchase orders and/or change orders to the purchase orders ("Contracts") and authorize the University President or her designee to execute, on behalf of the University, the aforementioned Contracts and any future option, renewal, extension, or amendment to a Contract and provide after the fact notice to the Finance and Facilities Committee, so long as the additional expenditure does not increase the amount of the transaction more than 10% of the approved value or to the next procurement delegations amount.
- **AP1. Tenure Nominations:** Approval of the Tenure Nominations as specified in the Board materials.

- **AP2. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nomination:** Approval of one (1) candidate for Tenure as a Condition of Employment.
- **AP3. General Education Course List for 2027-2028:** Review and approval of the General Education Course Report for 2027-2028.
- **AP4. Program Termination: EdD in Adult Education and Human Resource Development:** Approval of the termination of the Doctor of Education in Adult Education and Human Resource Development.
- **AP5. Application for Reaffirmation of Specialized Admissions:** Approval of the following baccalaureate degree programs for Reaffirmation of Specialized Admissions:
 - 09.0900 - BS in Public Relations and Advertising
 - 44.0701 - BS in Social Work
 - 51.3101 - BS in Dietetics and Nutrition
 - 51.3801 - BS in Nursing
- **AP6. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-1103 Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency:** Approval of the proposed amendments to Regulation FIU-1103 Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency, 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 or as a result of the regulation-making process.

6. Action Item

FF1. University and University Organizations Operating Budgets, 2026-27

Trustee Jesus Lebeña, Finance and Facilities Committee Chair, stated that the Committee engaged in a thorough review of the proposed 2026-27 University and University Organizations Operating Budgets for all budgetary units and recommended the item for Board approval. There were no further questions from the Trustees.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the FIU 2026-27 University and University Organizations Operating Budgets, and authorize the University President to amend the budgets consistent with Legislative, Board of Governors' and FIU Board of Trustees directives and guidelines.

7. Status Reports, Board Committees

Finance and Facilities Committee Report

Committee Chair Lebeña provided highlights from the Committee's earlier meeting. He commented that Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer David H. Snider presented the third quarter budget variance report for the current fiscal year,

reporting that University operating revenues were above estimates by \$12M, or 1%, while operating expenses were below estimates by \$57M, or 4.6%, resulting in an overall net favorable variance of \$70M. Committee Chair Lebeña stated that investment earnings for the University and University Organizations totaled \$57.8M, exceeding plan by \$26.7M. Committee Chair Lebeña also noted that CFO Snider presented highlights from the University's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, and that FIU received a clean, unmodified audit opinion, with no material weaknesses and no reportable compliance findings, reflecting continued growth and a sound financial position.

Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Committee Report

Trustee Alexander M. Peraza, Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Committee Vice Chair, provided highlights from the Committee's inaugural meeting held earlier in the day. Committee Vice Chair Peraza noted that the Committee received several updates reflecting FIU's strategic commitment to advancing innovation in artificial intelligence. He added that University President Jeanette M. Nuñez discussed the establishment of the new Senior Vice President for AI and Innovation position, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Robert N. Grillo presented an overview of University-wide artificial intelligence initiatives, and Senior Vice President for Operations and Safety and Chief of Staff Javier I. Marques provided an update on FIU's proposed University-wide artificial intelligence policy. Committee Vice Chair Peraza stated that the Committee looks forward to continuing its work in support of FIU's leadership in artificial intelligence and innovation.

Audit and Compliance Committee Report

Trustee Yaffa Popack, Audit and Compliance Committee Chair, provided highlights from the Committee's earlier meeting. She indicated that the Committee reviewed and approved the 2026–27 fiscal year work plans for the Offices of Internal Audit and University Compliance and Integrity. She added that the Committee received updates from Ms. Vivian Gonzalez, Chief Audit Executive, regarding recently completed audits, and from Ms. Jennifer LaPorta, Chief Compliance and Privacy Officer, regarding third-quarter compliance activities and the external program assessment. Committee Chair Popack recognized Ms. LaPorta, who will conclude her service with the University at the end of this month as she relocates to be closer to family.

Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Report

Trustee Popack, Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Vice Chair, provided highlights from the Committee's earlier meeting. She noted that Provost and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar provided updates on post-tenure review, new academic degree program proposals, and the Accountability Plan. Committee Vice Chair Popack added that, as part of the Committee's standing agenda items, the student and faculty representatives on the Board of Trustees also provided updates.

External Relations Committee Report

Trustee George Heisel, External Relations Committee Chair, provided highlights from the Committee's earlier meeting. He noted that Senior Vice President for Strategic Communications, Government and External Affairs Michelle L. Palacio provided an update on marketing and strategic communications, including efforts to unify marketing across the student lifecycle, strengthen brand awareness, promote research and commercialization opportunities, support advancement and alumni engagement, and reinforce brand compliance. He added that Sr. VP Palacio discussed the University's transition from a decentralized communications model to a hybrid model, as well as a new brand platform and campaign expected to launch in Fall 2026 in support of the Experience Impact 2032 strategic plan. Committee Chair Heisel also reported that Vice President for Government, Corporate, and Community Relations Christina Castillo shared updates on recent state appropriations and federal earmarks supporting University priorities, highlighted key visits, and discussed ongoing efforts to enhance the student experience and advance research excellence across the institution.

8. New Business

No new business was raised.

9. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Board Chair Carlos A. Duarte adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Full Board on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 5:02 PM.