



Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee  
June 18, 2026  
FIU, Biscayne Bay Campus, Wolfe University Center Ballrooms

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 Vice Chair Yaffa Popack on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 2:16 PM.

Acting General Counsel Ryan Kelley conducted roll call of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee members and verified a quorum. Present were Yaffa Popack, *Committee Vice Chair*; Noël C. Barengo; and Alyssa Mederos.

Trustee Albert R. Taño, *Committee Chair* was excused.

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

Committee Vice Chair Popack welcomed Alyssa Mederos as a member of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee. Provost, Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer, Elizabeth M. Bejar provided administrative updates related to new and augmented members of leadership across the University, noted a recommendation to the University President for the removal of the global learning requirement, and commented on the development of the academic structure for the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Committee Vice Chair Popack asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on February 26, 2026. Hearing none, a motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on February 26, 2026.

### **3. Action Items**

#### **AP1. Tenure Nominations**

Committee Vice Chair Popack explained that, at the conclusion of the spring semester each year, the administration conducts a thorough review of faculty candidates who are in their sixth year on their track towards tenure. She added that this year, a total of 18 candidates met the scholarly requirements and have been recommended for tenure. Provost Bejar provided an overview of the tenure review process and candidates. She highlighted the collective accomplishments of the 18 tenure candidates. She mentioned that all faculty are mandatorily evaluated on an annual basis on their annual assignment for research, teaching, and service and are subject to post-tenure review every five (5) years.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the FIU Board of Trustees approval of the Tenure Nominations as specified in the Board materials.

#### **AP2. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nomination**

Committee Vice Chair Popack commented on the Tenure as a Condition of Employment (TACOE) process. Provost Bejar discussed the TACOE candidate, Dr. Jerry Chipuk, who will join the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine within the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine.

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, as specified in the Board materials.

#### **AP3. General Education Course List for 2027-2028**

Provost Bejar presented the review of the General Education course offerings. Provost Bejar explained that Board of Governors (BOG) regulations require each university president and board of trustees to annually review and approve general education course offerings and submit the approved list to the Articulation Coordinating Committee by September 1. She mentioned that FIU completed its annual review to ensure compliance with Florida Statutes 1007.25 and 1007.55 and Board of Governors requirements. She noted that the 2027-2028 General Education Course List includes one (1) change from the 2026-2027 list: removal of PHY 1020, Understanding the Physical World, a State Core course in the Natural Science area that has not been taught at FIU since Spring 2016. She clarified that, because the course has not been offered in approximately ten (10) years, it no longer meets the University Core Curriculum Oversight Committee requirement that general education courses be taught at least twice during an academic year in different terms. She commented that the removal of PHY 1020 will not affect FIU's ability to meet state requirements, as ten (10) State Core courses in the Natural Science area will continue to be offered.

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 General Education Course Report for 2027-2028, as specified in the Board materials.

**AP4. Program Termination: EdD in Adult Education and Human Resource Development**

Provost Bejar presented the proposal from the Department of Educational Policy Studies to terminate the Doctor of Education in Adult Education and Human Resource Development. She noted that the program will stop admitting students beginning Fall 2026, and that there are currently 19 students enrolled. She mentioned that currently enrolled students are expected to graduate by Spring 2028 with an official teach-out period extending through Spring 2030. She clarified that the proposed termination will not adversely affect currently enrolled students, faculty, or University operations.

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.

**AP5. Application for Reaffirmation of Specialized Admissions**

Provost Bejar presented FIU's Application for Reaffirmation of Specialized Admissions, which requests Board approval, as required by Board of Governors Regulation 6.005, to continue using specialized admissions criteria for designated undergraduate programs. She explained that the reaffirmation applies to the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Public Relations and Advertising, BS in Social Work, BS in Dietetics and Nutrition, and BS in Nursing. She detailed that the specialized criteria support student success and program quality in programs recognized by specialized accrediting agencies with rigorous discipline-specific competency standards. She noted that faculty in each program established minimum admission requirements associated with successful program outcomes and employment or graduate admissions.

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 following baccalaureate degree programs for Reaffirmation of Specialized Admissions: BS in Public Relations and Advertising; BS in Social Work; BS in Dietetics and Nutrition; and BS in Nursing.

**AP6. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-1103 Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency**

Provost Bejar presented the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-1103 Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency. She explained that the revisions clarify compliance obligations and University processes for the timely adoption and reporting of required course materials to support students' ability to make informed purchasing decisions. She reviewed key changes including revised affordability requirements, clearer attestation

language confirming that course materials have been reviewed for legal and University compliance, removal of outdated or unnecessary provisions, updated public posting requirements and repositories for textbook adoptions and syllabi, revised retention references, and an annual reporting deadline aligned with BOG requirements.

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-1103 Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency, and the delegation of authority to the University President as specified in the Board materials.

#### **4. Information and Discussion Items: No Action Required**

##### **4.1 Post Tenure Review**

Provost Bejar reported on FIU's third cohort of post-tenure review, conducted pursuant to Board of Governors Regulation 10.003 and FIU Regulation FIU-2508, for the five-year period from 2021 through 2026. She summarized the review process, which included faculty accomplishments, annual evaluations, assigned duties, disciplinary records, and unit-approved criteria, and noted that 101 faculty completed the review. Final outcomes, determined after consultation with President Nuñez, were 42 faculty rated "Exceeds Expectations," 52 rated "Meets Expectations," seven (7) rated "Does Not Meet Expectations" and placed on Performance Improvement Plans, and none rated "Unsatisfactory."

##### **4.2 Planned New Academic Degree Program Proposals**

Provost Bejar presented the planned new academic degree program proposals. She explained that amendments to BOG Regulation 8.011, Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings, established a more fluid degree-planning process under which a one-year list is proposed and may be amended during the year. She noted that no formal Board approval is sought, as new degree programs return for Board consideration after completion of the Faculty Senate curriculum approval process. She detailed that the 2025-26 list includes eight (8) programs carried forward from the prior year while financial planning continues, as well as a new Master of Science in Wealth Management, which would prepare students in financial planning and services, including portfolio and investment management, estate planning, insurance, tax planning, strategic investing, financial consulting, and client relations.

##### **4.3 Addendum to 2026 Accountability Plan**

Provost Bejar presented an addendum to FIU's 2026 Annual Accountability Plan, which was approved by the Board of Trustees on April 20, 2026. She explained that the BOG requested the addendum to confirm projected nonresident undergraduate degree-seeking enrollment for upcoming terms, noting that the projection differs from the goals previously approved in the

Accountability Plan. She noted that the approved plan included a 10% nonresident undergraduate enrollment goal through 2030, while the current projection is 8%.

#### **4.4 Student Government Updates**

Trustee Alyssa Mederos reported on Student Government Association (SGA) activities, including Student Body Senate meetings, leadership and committee chair elections, efforts to fill remaining Senate vacancies, and work with Vice President Isabella Romeo and Chief of Staff Melany Morales to meet with FIU leadership and complete the Executive Cabinet. She noted Student Government's participation in Orientation and Week of Welcome in support of the FIU Class of 2030 and highlighted upcoming events, including SGA Connect and Create on June 24, 2026 and the annual SGA Meet and Greet on July 14, 2026.

#### **4.5 Faculty Senate Updates**

Trustee Noël C. Barengo thanked Jennifer LaPorta and Carlos Castillo for their service and collaboration and congratulated Trustee Alyssa Mederos on her election as SGA President. He reported that the Faculty Senate Steering Committee has met four (4) times and that the Faculty Senate met three (3) times. He noted that, at its April meeting, the Faculty Senate elected officers, including Amy Paul-Ward as vice chair, Jennifer Abeloff as secretary, and Trustee Barengo as Faculty Senate chair for a final two-year term. He added that the Faculty Senate adopted a statement reaffirming its commitment to the established search and screen process for dean appointments and emphasizing meaningful faculty participation and consultation in permanent and interim dean appointments. He noted faculty concerns regarding the College of Law dean search, while also acknowledging Provost Bejar's engagement with College of Law faculty. He stated that the Faculty Senate voted against removing the university-wide Global Learning graduation requirement and related references from University materials. Trustee Barengo thanked the deans who hosted faculty gatherings during the 2025-2026 academic year and noted that the next faculty gathering will be held at the Biscayne Bay Campus on September 10.

#### **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 Vice Chair Yaffa Popack adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 3:02 PM.

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