



Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Committee
June 18, 2026
FIU, Biscayne Bay Campus, Wolfe University Center Ballrooms

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

The Florida International University Board of Trustees Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Fred Voccola at 11:03 AM on Thursday, June 18, 2026.

Acting General Counsel Ryan Kelley conducted roll call of the Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Committee members and verified a quorum. Present were Trustees Fred Voccola, *Chair*; Alexander M. Peraza, *Vice Chair*; Noël C. Barengo; Carlos A. Duarte, *Board Chair*; Alan Gonzalez, *Board Vice Chair*; and George Heisel.

The following Board members were also in attendance: Trustees Jesus Lebeña; Patrick McDowell; Alyssa Mederos; Nestor Plana; and Yaffa Popack.

Committee Chair Voccola welcomed all Trustees, members of the University administration, and the University community to the inaugural meeting of the FIU Board of Trustees Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Committee.

2. Discussion Items: No Action Required

2.1 Review of Committee Scope of Responsibilities

Committee Chair Voccola noted that the Board of Trustees approved amendments to the Board's Bylaws establishing the Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Committee as a standing Committee of the Board. He added that, as reflected in the Board's Bylaws, the Committee's responsibilities include the following: providing strategic oversight, guidance, and support for the University's initiatives in artificial intelligence, data science, and related fields across academic programs, research operations, and research administration; promoting the responsible stewardship of university resources and helping ensure that such initiatives are aligned with the University's mission, values, and long-term strategic goals; and providing guidance on policy direction, best practices, institutional risks and opportunities, and ethical considerations, and advancing priorities that foster interdisciplinary collaboration to accelerate innovation, economic development, technology transfer, and commercialization.

2.2 Artificial Intelligence at FIU

President Jeanette M. Nuñez recognized Board Chair Carlos A. Duart for his vision in establishing a standing Committee dedicated to considering artificial intelligence and innovation through a governance lens. She noted that artificial intelligence is not a passing trend, but a force that is fundamentally reshaping higher education, the workforce, and the way organizations operate. President Nuñez stated that, for FIU, this moment presents both an extraordinary opportunity and an urgent responsibility. She emphasized FIU's commitment to becoming an AI-first university, explaining that this commitment extends beyond embracing technology. She stated that AI must be central to how FIU prepares students for success, advances research and innovation, and strengthens institutional operations across both the academic enterprise and administrative functions. She further noted that every student, regardless of discipline or major, should graduate not only with expertise in their field and strong career prospects, but also with an AI-centered perspective that goes beyond basic literacy or proficiency.

President Nuñez stated that the Committee, under the leadership of Committee Chair Voccola, will help drive important discussions regarding how FIU uses AI responsibly and strategically, including matters related to ethical use, academic integrity, accountability, and governance. She noted that the Committee will play an important role in helping the University assess meaningful progress, identify areas where further work is needed, and remain focused on the urgency of the moment.

President Nuñez observed that higher education is at an inflection point, with institutions facing affordability pressures, shifting workforce demands, and rapidly evolving expectations for graduates. She stated that universities that move too slowly or hesitate to adopt AI thoughtfully risk falling behind. She added that FIU must lead by example by demonstrating what strategic AI adoption looks like across the University, using AI to improve efficiency, strengthen decision-making, reduce costs, and support responsible innovation. President Nuñez highlighted several institutional priorities underway to support FIU's AI-first strategy, including the development of an AI scorecard to measure progress, active recruitment for a Chief AI and Innovation Officer to help strengthen University-wide leadership and coordination, efforts to encourage engagement across the University, and responsible opportunities to use AI to improve efficiency and support strategic resource allocation.

Overview of University AI Initiatives

Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Robert Grillo provided an overview of artificial intelligence initiatives at FIU. He stated that FIU is not approaching AI as a collection of disconnected tools or pilots, but rather as a coordinated institutional effort designed to support the academic mission, strengthen research, improve operations, and prepare students and the workforce for an AI-enabled future. He emphasized that AI is not solely a technology initiative, but an institutional capability that, when used responsibly, can help

reduce friction in processes, improve access to information, support faster decision-making, and create a more connected experience for the University community.

VP Grillo stated that FIU has both an opportunity and a responsibility to ensure that students are prepared to use AI thoughtfully, ethically, and effectively as employer expectations and workforce skills continue to evolve across nearly every field. He reviewed FIU's active AI portfolio and noted that the University is moving forward with a coordinated set of initiatives designed to support academic and research needs, strengthen administrative operations, expand access to enterprise AI tools, and create FIU-specific AI services. He emphasized that the portfolio is intended to build institutional capacity while ensuring that AI adoption occurs in a structured, secure, and mission-aligned manner.

VP Grillo also described FIU's work to develop University-specific AI services that provide trusted, role-based assistance to students, faculty, staff, and administrators. He noted that these services are intended to be grounded in approved University information and designed to help members of the FIU community access relevant support through a common and trusted experience. He stated that these AI services are expected to evolve over time to support a range of institutional needs, including student-facing services, employee support, academic assistance, and administrative functions, while maintaining appropriate safeguards and oversight. VP Grillo further noted that FIU is exploring AI-enabled administrative improvements to enhance efficiency, consistency, compliance, and the user experience in key University processes. He emphasized that the purpose of these efforts is not to replace human judgment, but to focus review, reduce manual effort where appropriate, and support more effective service delivery.

VP Grillo noted that FIU is managing its AI initiatives through a structured approach intended to support prioritization, reduce duplication, manage risk, and align resources with projects that create meaningful value for the University. He stated that AI is becoming a core institutional capability for FIU and that the University's responsibility is to guide adoption in a manner that is strategic, secure, responsible, and aligned with FIU's mission. With the Committee's continued guidance, he stated that FIU will continue advancing AI in a way that strengthens the University and supports its long-term success.

Review of Proposed University-Wide AI Policy

Senior Vice President for Operations and Safety and Chief of Staff Javier I. Marques provided an overview of FIU's proposed University-wide artificial intelligence governance policy. He thanked Committee Chair Voccola and the Committee members and noted that a proposed draft policy was included in the materials before them.

Sr. VP Marques explained that FIU currently addresses artificial intelligence through existing AI acceptable use guidelines, which rely on academic integrity rules, student conduct processes, course syllabi, faculty direction, and specialized research guidance, rather than a single comprehensive University-wide AI policy. He stated that, through the proposed policy, FIU would

formalize how AI is used across the University. Sr. VP Marques noted that the draft policy is built upon three pillars: responsible use, data protection, and academic and research integrity. He added that the policy remains a work in progress and that, as the Board of Governors finalizes its guidance for institutions, FIU will continue working to ensure alignment before adopting a final policy. Sr. VP Marques invited Committee members to review the proposed draft policy and provide any recommendations for consideration as the University continues to refine the policy.

Committee Chair Voccola commented that, as the Committee begins its work, it is important to consider not only how FIU is currently leveraging artificial intelligence, but also how the University can define and advance itself as an AI-first institution. He emphasized that, in his view, becoming AI-first is not primarily about technology itself, but about how artificial intelligence is applied thoughtfully and effectively across an organization to improve processes, strengthen outcomes, and support long-term competitiveness.

Committee Chair Voccola stated that individual departments and functional areas are well positioned to identify how AI can be used to improve efficiency, enhance output, and support better decision-making, provided that implementation is responsible, mission-aligned, and guided by appropriate governance. He further noted that the specific AI models or tools used are less important than ensuring that they are applied appropriately to support the needs of each function, including finance, administrative operations, academic areas, and other units across the University. He stated that the success of AI adoption will depend on leaders at all levels understanding their respective workflows and identifying where AI can responsibly drive meaningful change.

Committee Chair Voccola remarked that the Committee's work should help support President Nuñez and the University administration in advancing an approach to AI that enables meaningful efficiency gains, strengthens decision-making, and supports institutional transformation in a responsible and mission-aligned manner. He added that organizations that are successful in becoming AI-first establish tangible goals and measure how AI supports efficiency, productivity, and quality outcomes. He stated that the Committee looks forward to working with the University administration to help advance this work rapidly, effectively, and in a sustainable manner.

Committee members expressed support for the discussion and noted the importance of considering AI not only as a tool for administrative efficiencies, but also as a means to strengthen FIU's core mission, including student success, education, research, and service. Trustees discussed the opportunity to use AI to rethink how the University delivers value, while recognizing the need to move with urgency so that FIU remains competitive and prepared for the pace of change.

Committee Chair Voccola also emphasized the importance of embedding AI into the everyday academic and operational life of the University so that students are prepared for a workforce in which AI-related expectations and skill sets continue to change rapidly. Trustees discussed how AI may affect academic programs and the preparation of students across disciplines. Chair Voccola noted that, from an employer perspective, the skills most needed in the future may place increasing emphasis on critical thinking, broad knowledge, adaptability, the ability to work with incomplete information, and the capacity to drive outcomes using multiple inputs. Committee members recognized the importance of continuing to examine how FIU's academic offerings, research enterprise, and student experience should evolve in response to these changes.

Provost and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar noted that the academic team, including administrators, deans, and faculty, is examining these issues in detail. Trustees emphasized the importance of preparing students not only to use AI tools, but also to understand how to apply them responsibly and effectively in ways that support meaningful outcomes.

3. New Business

No new business was raised.

4. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Committee Chair Fred Voccola adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Committee on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 11:45 AM.