



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 4, 2016
10:30 am Eastern Time
Via Conference Call
Dial-in Number: 1-888-223-7109 (*listen-only*)

Committee Membership:

Claudia Puig, *Board Chair*; Jorge L. Arrizurieta, *Board Vice Chair*; Cesar L. Alvarez; Jose J. Armas;
Gerald C. Grant, Jr.

AGENDA

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks | Claudia Puig |
| 2. Action Item | |
| G1. Honorary Degree Nomination | Kenneth G. Furton |
| 3. New Business (<i>If any</i>) | Claudia Puig |
| 4. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment | Claudia Puig |

The next Governance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2, 2016.

Governance Committee

Date: May 4, 2016

Subject: Honorary Degree Nomination

Proposed Committee Action:

Endorse Ms. Marcia J. Zerivitz as a recipient of a doctoral degree *honoris causa* from Florida International University.

Background Information:

The nomination was recommended by the Faculty Senate on Tuesday, January 19, 2016.

The nominee was approved by the University President and Provost to receive an honorary degree at Commencement.

Florida Board of Governors Regulation 3.004, Honorary Degrees, provides that each university board of trustees shall establish policies and procedures for recommending candidates for honorary degrees.

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Faculty Senate: HONORARY DEGREE & AWARDS COMMITTEE
Florida International University - PC 225
11200 Southwest 8th Street
Miami, FL 33199

May 4, 2015

RE: Nomination for Marcia Jo Zerivitz for Honorary Degree

Dear Members of the Honorary Degree & Awards Committee

It is my pleasure to submit Marcia Jo Zerivitz, Founding Director of the Jewish Museum of Florida – FIU to you for consideration as an individual worthy of receiving an Honorary Degree from FIU. I believe that the work done by this individual is consistent with the values and standards held dear by our University and that her contributions to the State of Florida and beyond are indeed significant.

The plain fact is that the contributions made by Jews to the State of Florida had been seriously overlooked until about half a century ago when Marcia Jo Zweivitz began her search of records. Her early work provided evidence of a Jewish (conversos) presence in the first American settlement, St. Augustine in the 1500. She documented a Jewish presence in Pensacola in 1763 and went on to debunk the widely held idea that the Jewish presence in Florida was grounded in the development of Miami Beach in the aftermath of World War II.

Driven by a sense of personal identity and an appreciation of the importance of accurate history Zerivitz set about compiling a more complete historical and cultural record of the Jews of Florida. She began her statewide hunt for information and artifacts documenting the contributions of Jewish Floridians. She literally traveled the State from Ocean to Gulf and from the northern state-line to Key West. The journey covered more than 150,00 miles and she visited 30 Florida cities always spending the nights in homes getting to know the people. She was an initial member of the four-person MOASIC Project (locally funded 1984, State funded 1986) with the task of conducting research and training hundreds of volunteers who would collect photographs, documents and artifacts and conduct hundreds of oral histories.

This rich collection of materials was organized by the team into a 2,000 square foot traveling exhibit titled *MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida*. In October 1990 it opened at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida and in the four years that followed this exhibit was presented in 30 cities across the State. A curriculum for both public and private schools was developed that

focused on the immigration experience and ethnic diversity. The MOSAIC Project evolved into the Jewish Museum of Florida. In 1992 Zerivitz was selected as the Founding Executive Director. In April 1995 the Museum opened to the public in its home, the historic second synagogue for the first Jewish congregation on Miami Beach.

The Museum now occupies two restored synagogues listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It collects, preserves and interprets 250 years of the Jewish contextual experience in Florida providing insights into both American and world Jewish history, art and culture while advancing understanding and appreciation of the immigration experience of all Americans. Under Zerivitz's direction the Jewish Museum of Florida was accredited and re-accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, an achievement attained by less than 5% of the nation's museums.

Marcia Jo Zerivitz is recognized as a significant figure in Jewish American History and in the Museum world. She currently lectures on topics including discrimination and Florida Jewish History. She is an active consultant and conducts workshops nationally for non-profits, including museums, on strategic planning, collections, exhibitions, non-profit governance and management, adaptive reuse of historic structures and fundraising. She currently serves as a peer reviewer for the American Alliance of Museums. Additionally she has published two books.

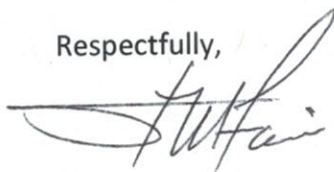
Florida Jewish Heritage Trail. (Primary researcher and co-author), Tallahassee:
Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, 2000

Jews of Greater Miami, Arcadia Publishing. Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, 2009.
(photodocumentary)

It was Marcia Jo Zerivitz who devised the strategic plan that ultimately brought the Jewish Museum of Florida and Florida international University together.

For the reasons reflected above and for the vision and impact she has had on Floridians of all religious and cultural backgrounds and for her skill as a researcher and as a communicator I submit Marcia Jo Zerivitz to you as a most worthy candidate for a honorary degree.

Respectfully,



Stephen M. Fain, Ed.D.
Professor Emeritus: College of Education
Honors Fellow Emeritus: Honors College
Founding University Professor