



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC POLICY AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

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 Chair Cesar L. Alvarez at 11:20 a.m. on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at the FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee members and verified a quorum. Present were Trustees Cesar L. Alvarez, *Chair*; Natasha Lowell, *Vice Chair*; Jose J. Armas, *Board Vice Chair (arrived late)*; Dean C. Colson; Michael G. Joseph (*arrived late*); Joerg Reinhold; and Sabrina L. Rosell.

Trustee Marc D. Sarnoff was excused.

Board Chair Claudia Puig and Trustees Leonard Boord, Gerald C. Grant, Jr., Justo L. Pozo, and Roger Tovar, and University President Mark B. Rosenberg were also in attendance.

Committee Chair Alvarez welcomed all Trustees and University faculty and staff to the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Alvarez requested that the Minutes of the September 18, 2019 Meeting of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee be amended to reflect that he was marked as excused due to the September Board meetings being rescheduled for another date that he was not available to attend.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 as amended by Committee Chair Alvarez.

3. Action Items

Committee Chair Alvarez noted that, in anticipation of the meetings, Trustees received comprehensive supporting documentation on each of the agenda items and solicited comments and/or questions from the Committee members regarding the honorary degree nomination and the

tenure as a condition of employment nomination. There were no questions from the Committee members.

AP1. Honorary Degree Nomination

A motion was made and unanimously passed to recommend that the Florida International University Board of Trustees endorse Dr. Enid Curtis Pinkney as a recipient of a doctoral degree *honoris causa* from Florida International University.

AP2. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nomination

A motion was made and unanimously passed to recommend to the Florida International University Board of Trustees the approval of one (1) candidate for Tenure as a Condition of Employment.

AP3. 2020-2021 Legislative Budget Request

Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton presented the 2020-2021 Legislative Budget Request (LBR) for the Committee's review, indicating that the request pertains to \$15.15M in recurring funding for the Program of Distinction in Environmental Resilience. Provost Furton indicated that while the funding is not guaranteed, the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) has accepted the LBR proposal. He explained that the Program is positioned to help address environmental challenges that are faced locally, nationally, and globally.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to The Florida International University Board of Trustees approval of the 2020-2021 Legislative Budget Request:

- Program of Distinction in Environmental Resilience Request: \$15,150,000

AP4. Industrial HEMP Pilot Project

Vice President of Research and Economic Development Andres G. Gil presented for the Committee's review, the University's request to implement an Industrial HEMP Pilot Project in accordance with Florida Statutes. He explained that Florida Statutes (Section 1004.4473) allow universities to implement industrial hemp pilot projects under the circumstances that are set forth in the statute and pointed out that the statute states, in relevant part, that "[t]he purpose of the pilot projects is to cultivate, process, test, research, create, and market safe and effective commercial applications for industrial hemp in the agricultural sector in this state." He indicated that among the statutory requirements is that "a university must obtain the authorization of its board of trustees before implementing an industrial hemp pilot project", adding that the statute defines "Industrial hemp pilot project" as "a project that includes research of industrial hemp and any aspect of cultivation, harvesting, processing, market research, and sales of approved industrial hemp agricultural, industrial, and commercial products." VP Gil stated that industrial hemp is defined as "all parts and varieties of the cannabis sativa plant, cultivated or possessed by an approved grower under the pilot project, whether growing or not, which contain a tetrahydrocannabinol concentration that does not exceed 0.3 percent on a dry-weight basis."

VP Gil explained that while FIU is part of a State University System consortium on state-funded medical marijuana research led by UF, the current request does not pertain to medical marijuana

research. He further stated that FIU has signed an agreement with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that restricts the medical marijuana research that the University can engage in.

VP Gil pointed out that the statute also requires that a university must partner with a “Qualified project partner”, which is defined as a public, nonprofit, or private entity that: (1) has a principal place of business in this state; (2) has access to a grow site and research facility located in this state; (3) submits a comprehensive business or research plan acceptable to the partnering university; and (4) provides proof of prior experience in or knowledge of, or demonstrates an interest in and commitment to, the cultivation, processing, manufacturing, or research of industrial hemp, as determined by the department. VP Gil explained that the pilot project authorized by a university must be registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and must comply with rules adopted by the Department.

VP Gil indicated that Associate Vice President for Research and Professor William “Bill” T. Anderson will be the contact person within the Office of Research and Economic Development who will be responsible for oversight of the pilot projects. VP Gil stated that Green Point Research LLC has been identified as a potential Qualified Project Partner, adding that the University will work towards establishing a contractual relationship with that partner.

In response to Trustee Natasha Lowell’s inquiry, VP Gil explained that the current pilot project request will not foreseeably create any potential conflicts with the restrictions set forth by the NIH. Committee Chair Alvarez advised that the University should consider providing clarity when referring to the project in terms of specifying that the research is not related to marijuana. Provost Furton pointed out that statute dictates the name of the research, specifically industrial hemp pilot project.

A motion was made and passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend that The Florida International University Board of Trustees authorize the University to implement an industrial hemp pilot project in accordance with the requirements of Section 1004.4473, Florida Statutes.

Trustee Lowell voted against the motion.

AP5. New Program Proposal: FIU Embrace Education Program

Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar presented the FIU Embrace Education Program new program proposal for the Committee’s review. She explained that the University is proposing a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP) designed to provide a three-year academic and experiential program for individuals, ages 18-28, with intellectual disabilities. She pointed out that the proposed non-credit program focuses on job training and academic development with the goal of eventual independent living. She indicated that a certificate of completion will be issued upon the successful completion of all components of the program. She stated that for programs to be approved by the Center, the FPCTP must first gain approval through the FIU Board of Trustees and the State University System Chancellor, adding that the eventual approval by the Center will allow the program students access to Title IV Financial Aid funds.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the Florida International University Board of Trustees approval of the New Program Proposal: FIU Embrace Education Program.

4. Information and Discussion Items

4.1 Academic Affairs Regular Reports

There were no questions from the Committee members in terms of the Academic Affairs regular reports included as part of the agenda materials.

4.2 Commercialization of the University's Patent Inventory

In response to a request from Trustee Board, VP Gil presented a comprehensive implementation plan for the commercialization of the University's patent inventory. He indicated that the University is focused on advancing public impact research, which he explained is exemplified by discoveries and advances that lead to cutting-edge methods and solutions that improve society and educate students. He stated that research innovation is demonstrated through high impact publications, new discoveries and new inventions, and the ability to obtain external funding.

VP Gil described the lengthy process from research to achieving commercialization. He illustrated the example of Professor and Chair of Biomedical Engineering Dr. Ranu Jung, noting that Dr. Jung and her team developed a prosthetic hand with "human feel" which is currently in clinical trials and is FDA approved. He stated that the technology has seven related patents and that the first disclosure occurred in 2006. VP Gil pointed out that the first NIH grant was awarded in 2006 and that subsequent grants were awarded from the U.S. Department of Defense. He explained that the technology was recently featured in the NIH Director's blog and then presented a video from the blog, which introduced Mr. Jason Little who is the first recipient of the prosthetic hand.

VP Gil provided a historical overview of the University's patent production. He delineated the goals of patent production, namely partnerships with industry that increase research funding from the private sector, collaboration opportunities for FIU faculty with industry, opportunities for FIU students to engage with industry, application of FIU inventions to solutions in the marketplace and FIU income through: (1) recovery of patent costs, (2) licensing revenue and (3) research awards from industry and federal sources.

In terms of the commercialization unit within the Research office, VP Gil pointed out that current staffing consists of four FTEs, namely a director, who is an electrical engineer, holds an MBA, and is also a patent lawyer, one licensing manager, and two licensing associates. In terms of FTEs in relation to research funding levels, he provided an overview of staffing ratios for USF, UF, FSU, and UCF. He discussed the University's plans to add one licensing associate, one technology marketing associate, and one contract specialist over the next two years, adding that the staffing additions will be funded from F&A and will bring the FIU ratio to one FTE per \$31M in research based on FIU's current research funding level.

VP Gil presented an overview of the goals relating to licensing through 2024-25. In terms of the progress towards fiscal year 2020 goals, he reported that the University has reached, thus far, eight

licensing agreements and four new start-up companies. He described recent commercialization metric improvements, indicating that eight license option agreements were secured between 2008 and 2016 and that in 2019, the University has achieved seven license agreements, the largest in any given year in FIU history. In terms of patents and license option agreements within the context of the State University System, he noted that FSU had nine, 13, and 15 license option agreements in each of the past three fiscal years and that UCF has 965 patents and had 27 license option agreements in the past fiscal year.

VP Gil indicated that two companies are in negotiations with the University to license two solar energy patents and provided an overview of recent patent commercialization. He pointed out that Platinum Group Metals Ltd. launched a new venture, "Lion Battery Technologies Inc." to accelerate the development of next-generation battery technology, adding that the agreement has a licensing component that includes a \$50K option fee, and a \$3M research award to continue the research. He explained that the University's Transforming Antennas Center is led by Professor Stavros Georgakopoulos, adding that the research has patents in Physically Reconfigurable and Deployable Multifunctional Antennas and has led to funding from the U.S. Department of Defense, as well as industry. Furthermore, he stated that the research has also led to health care industry applications through the creation of a startup company, Innovelix, Inc., Wireless Transmission of Power and Data for Wearable Wireless Sensors. VP Gil reported that Ginko Bioworks is collaborating with the University to respond to a request from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency for a project to develop new techniques to address vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, for U.S. troops, adding that the project will include a license option and \$3M for the research.

In response to Committee Chair Alvarez's inquiry, VP Gil explained that the University's licensing revenues totaled \$30K in 2017, while the total in 2018 rose to \$64K. In terms of the current year, he stated that licensing revenues are currently \$49K, adding that revenue growth is expected as the number of licensing agreements increase. President Mark B. Rosenberg stated that the Committee might want to continue the discussion at a future meeting in order to address Trustee Tovar's comments on the potential income and revenue as it relates to marketing the University's patent inventory and also to review UCF's patent distribution with respect to the related research areas.

5. Student Government Updates

Trustee Sabrina L. Rosell, President of the Student Government Council at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, thanked Trustee Tovar for dedicating of his time to tour the University's Engineering Center. She congratulated the FIU Model UN team for being ranked as the No. 1 team nationally. She stated that entrepreneur David Grutman, responsible for brands such as Komodo, Swan, and Club LIV, brought his talents in hospitality to the University as he taught a class at FIU known as "The David Grutman Experience: The Class."

6. Faculty Senate Updates

Trustee Joerg Reinhold, Faculty Senate Chair, indicated that the Faculty Senate is currently reviewing curriculum-related items. He noted the Faculty Senate's commitment to student mental health, adding that training modules will be available to students, faculty, and staff in the Spring semester. He explained that the modules will help to educate and inform in terms of recognizing at-risk students, adding that the training will also provide important information relating to the appropriate

and available resources. He pointed out that it is the goal for the vast majority of the Faculty Senate to complete the training.¹

7. New Business

Provost Furton referred Trustees to the supplemental materials, namely the U.S. News & World Report rankings tracker and the metrics dashboard. In response to Provost Furton, Trustee Colson recommended that the Committee continue to receive the referenced materials as part of regular reporting.

8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Committee Chair Cesar L. Alvarez adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 12:11 p.m.

There were no Trustee requests.

¹ Trustee Joerg Reinhold requested that the Minutes of the December 5, 2019 Meeting of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee be amended to reflect that it is the goal for the vast majority of the Faculty Senate to complete the training modules (Faculty Senate Update).