



**Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee  
December 8, 2021**

**FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms and via Zoom**

**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 Chair Natasha Lowell on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 10:31 a.m.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee members and verified a quorum. Present were Trustees Natasha Lowell, *Committee Chair*; Donna J Hrinak, *Committee Vice Chair*; Cesar L. Alvarez; Jose J. Armas, *Health Affairs Liaison*; Dean C. Colson, *Board Chair*; Joerg Reinhold; Chanel T. Rowe (*via Zoom*); Alexander Rubido; Marc D. Sarnoff; and Roger Tovar, *Board Vice Chair and Athletics Liaison*.

Trustees Carlos A. Duarte, Gene Prescott, and Carlos Trujillo and University President Mark B. Rosenberg were also in attendance.

Committee Chair Lowell welcomed all Trustees and members of the University administration. She also welcomed Trustees attending via the virtual environment and the University community and general public accessing the meeting via the University's webcast.

Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton commented on the appointment of Acting Director Casey Steadman as the Director of The Wolfsonian—FIU. Provost Furton indicated that the search for the next dean of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs is in the final stages, adding that four (4) candidates were reviewed by the search and screen committee and invited for on-campus interviews with a wide range of stakeholders. Provost Furton remarked on the Director search for the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, noting that the University engaged a diversified search firm for the global search and that Interim Director Guillermo Solís has agreed to remain in the role through Summer 2022 as the search process continues.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Committee Chair Lowell asked that the Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 14, 2021. A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on September 14, 2021.

### **3. Action Items**

#### **AP1. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nomination**

Committee Chair Lowell explained that there is one (1) Tenure as a Condition of Employment (TACOE) nomination, adding that to be considered for TACOE, newly hired faculty must qualify for tenure at FIU based on their caliber of work and/or tenure status at their previous institution. Provost Furton pointed out that TACOE is reserved for individuals who have achieved highly prestigious academic careers at other peer institutions. He explained that, at the time of hire, the faculty candidate understands that the tenure and rank appointment will be granted upon review of the candidate's materials by the department, the college, the Provost, the President and the FIU Board of Trustees. Provost Furton indicated that the TACOE candidate has been vetted and briefly commented on the TACOE candidate.

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 the approval of one (1) candidate for Tenure as a Condition of Employment as specified in the Board materials.

#### **AP2. New Program Proposal: Master of Business Administration in Cybersecurity Risk Management**

Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar presented the Master of Business Administration in Cybersecurity Risk Management new program proposal for Committee review. She explained that students in the proposed program will gain specialized knowledge in cybersecurity risk management, governance, policy, business continuity, incident response, laws, standards, and frameworks. She indicated that the proposed MBA will prepare students to take cybersecurity leadership positions in the international business C-Suite arena with the capability to manage the cybersecurity function, engage in strategic and contingency planning, and investment portfolio management. She pointed out that graduates will learn to assess the security needs of computer and network systems so as to evaluate, justify, and manage cybersecurity investments as well as high-level vendor relationships.

Sr. VP Bejar commented that the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' reports demand for positions such as this will continue to increase, currently, over 30%, much faster than average, through 2029. She added that the median salary for such a position was estimated at approximately \$99,000 in 2019. She mentioned that the expected growth in Florida is on par with, if not greater than, the nation with its growth in the tech industries. She remarked that the proposed degree is a STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) program, as defined by the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) and therefore aligns with the recently expressed needs of the BOG's Task Force on Academic and Workforce Alignment.

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 Master of Business Administration in Cybersecurity Risk Management (CIP 11.0501) new program proposal.

### **AP3. New Program Proposal: Limited Access Bachelor of Science in Public Health**

Sr. VP Bejar presented the Limited Access Bachelor of Science in Public Health new program proposal for Committee review. She explained that the B.S. in Public Health would be the first in a Council of Education in Public Health (CEPH) accredited school of public health in South Florida. She remarked that, with clinical health professions integrating concepts of population health, FIU's BSPH graduates will be uniquely prepared for and competitively positioned for admission to medical, dental, and other clinical professional schools, and graduate public health education. She commented that graduates of the proposed program will also have acquired the knowledge and skill sets for employment in a wide range of industries both within and external to the health professions.

Sr. VP Bejar indicated that limited access approval is sought to utilize a 2.75 GPA admissions requirement in order to manage enrollment in upper division professional courses which require thorough documentation of individual student competency attainment and post-graduation success for CEPH accreditation. She commented on the anticipated strong demand for the program and on the five-year projection of approximately 250 students within the proposed program. She pointed out that the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects growth across the broad spectrum of employment.

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 Limited Access Bachelor of Science in Public Health (CIP 51.2201) new program proposal.

### **AP4. Florida International University HB 1261 Career Planning Requirement Implementation Plan**

Provost Furton presented FIU's HB 1261 Career Planning Requirement Implementation Plan for Committee review. He explained that House Bill 1261 mandates that each university in the State University System adopt procedures that connect undergraduate students to career planning and related programs during their first academic year and that these procedures be reviewed and approved by the BOG by March 1, 2022. He commented that FIU is committed to ensuring that students develop the skills and competencies needed for lifelong career management success. Provost Furton pointed out that all students will be required to complete the Career Ready Panther Module in Canvas, noting that the module will provide students with the tools to research potential career opportunities, create a career plan, develop critical skills necessary for career success, and explain how to connect with resources and support available to them throughout their career development journey. He described the implementation plan insofar as all incoming freshman or undergraduates will be required to register with the University's career center, complete a career readiness training module, explore the State University System MyFloridaFuture dashboard, and affirm that they have been provided with and understand the information provided to them.

Board Chair Dean C. Colson indicated that the Board should devote time in the future to discuss the University's career centers, including best practices in terms of centralized versus decentralized career services structures. Provost Furton remarked on the University's centrally coordinated efforts with local deployment in certain colleges, adding that certain colleges, such as the College of Business, have a more robust career service program. Associate Provost for Academic and Career Success Valerie Johnsen remarked on the University's goal to further enhance the coordination

among the University's career services, further commenting on the importance of industry partnership. She referred to the agenda materials where there is an introduction to Dr. Ruth Pacheco who is serving as the University's Executive Director for Integrated Industry Partnerships and Career Readiness.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the Florida International University Board of Trustees (1) approve Florida International University's House Bill 1261 Career Planning Requirement Implementation Plan as provided in the Board materials and (2) delegate authority to the University President to perform finish editing as needed and to amend consistent with comments received from the Board of Governors.

#### **AP5. Updated Exclusion Resolution**

Provost Furton presented the updated Exclusion Resolution for Committee review, noting that Department of Defense (DoD) policy requires that the Chair of the FIU Board of Trustees and all FIU principal officers meet the personnel clearance requirements established for the level of the University's security clearance in order to continue to enter into contractual obligations with agencies. He added that said DoD policy permits the exclusion from the personnel security clearance requirement of members of the Board of Trustees and other officers if the Board adopts a resolution. He explained that the composition of the FIU Board of Trustees has changed, adding that the new resolution has been updated to reflect the current Board of Trustees membership.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the Florida International University Board of Trustees adopt a Resolution that updates the exclusion of the named members of the FIU Board of Trustees from the requirements for a personnel security clearance.

#### **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.

##### **5. Student Government Updates**

Trustee Alexander Rubido, Student Government President, commented on the completion of the Students Space Improvement Commission Report, noting that the project is under final review for presentation to Sr. VP Bejar and senior leadership. He remarked on finals week, adding that student government is preparing multiple events and giveaways for students. He mentioned that student government's environmental resiliency lecture series is active with faculty and student engagement. He also commented on the upcoming commencement ceremonies.

##### **6. Faculty Senate Updates**

Trustee Reinhold, Faculty Senate Chair, commented that the Faculty Senate has held four (4) meetings since the Board's September 14, 2021 meetings. He indicated that the Faculty Senate, at its November 2, 2021 meeting, passed a Resolution on Academic Freedom. He read the Resolution, specifically "At its November 2, 2021 meeting, the faculty senate passed the following resolution:

The faculty senate of Florida International University has noted with grave concern the recent events taking place at our sister institution, the University of Florida. In that regard, we wish to express our very great concern about what appears to be a serious breach of academic freedom. We also believe it is important that it is understood that, when faculty are invited to participate in policy processes, they do so as objective experts. When they are denied the right to this, not only does it undermine both freedom of inquiry and the independence of the university, it denies the citizens of the State, to whom the university is ultimately responsible, access to the most current and independent knowledge available on the issue under consideration.”

#### **7. New Business**

No new business was raised.

#### **8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**

With no other business, Committee Chair Natasha Lowell adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 11:04 a.m.