



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC POLICY AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2020

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 10:39 a.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 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 (arrived late)*; Dean C. Colson; Joerg Reinhold; Sabrina L. Rosell; and Marc D. Sarnoff.

Board Chair Jose J. Armas was excused.

Board Chair Claudia Puig and Trustees Leonard Boord, Gerald C. Grant, Jr., Donna J. Hrinak, Gene Prescott, 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.

Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton announced that following a national search, Dr. Michael Cheng was appointed as the next dean for the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Provost Furton pointed out that Dean Cheng has been serving as the interim dean since December 15, 2017. Provost Furton indicated that Dean Cheng has more than 20 years of leadership experience in Culinology® and hospitality management and is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Culinary Science and Technology.

In terms of potential impacts and academic continuity of operations, Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar provided an update on Coronavirus COVID-19. She explained that the University is closely monitoring updates from news outlets and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She pointed out that while the data is dynamic, total confirmed cases have exceeded 80,000 worldwide and presented an overview of countries/regions where there are 10 or more confirmed cases. She explained that guidance from the CDC and the World Health Organization is being followed and that FIU has suspended all

University travel and study abroad programs to China, Singapore, Japan, South Korea and Italy. She indicated that students, faculty and staff who were on University business in those countries either have returned to the U.S. or are in the process of returning.

Sr. VP Bejar referred to the CDC's comment that it is not so much a question of if this will happen anymore, but rather more a question of when this will happen and how many people in this country will have severe illness. She added that similar to preparations for the hurricane season, preparations related to the Coronavirus ought to include contingencies and supplies should the situation arise requiring a quarantine at home for a minimum of 14 days. She pointed out that members of the University community who have traveled to China, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, or Italy, as well as those who have been in close contact with anyone recently arrived from said countries, are required to quarantine at home and avoid contact with others during a period of 14 days, even if no symptoms of illness are present.

Sr. VP Bejar indicated that the University has established an academic affairs communication and information dissemination workgroup and that the University has the technical capacity present should the need arise to transfer all courses online to ensure the continuity of the academic enterprise. She added that tutorials are online and available so that faculty may begin the process of using Canvas to its full capacity to host courses and commented on other digital platforms that are also available for remote instruction. Sr. VP Bejar explained that in order to identify strengths and opportunities to improve capabilities, a tabletop exercise for a pandemic scenario has been scheduled. In terms of prevention, she pointed out that while there is currently no vaccine to prevent the Coronavirus, the CDC recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of the disease, namely, frequent hand washing with soap and water and that if soap and water are not readily available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol should be used.

Board Chair Puig and Trustee Dean C. Colson commended the University's efforts. Trustee Colson inquired as to the University's response if a housing resident tests positive and how such a response would align with the emergency response of local, state, and federal government agencies. He further commented on the need for the University's response to be consistent with that of other institutions within the State University System. Vice President of Operations and Safety and Chief of Staff Javier I. Marques pointed out that the University is maintaining communication with local emergency managers to ensure that the University is staying abreast of best practices and that the tabletop exercise will cover the worst-case scenario of a complete shutdown of the University, County services, and beyond. Senior Vice President of External Relations Sandra B. Gonzalez-Levy pointed out that the University has issued, to-date, eight (8) updates relating to the Coronavirus. Trustee Leonard Boord stated that the potential threat of the spreading of the virus has created an opportunity for moving educational courses online.

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Alvarez asked that the Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting held on December 5, 2019. 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*).

A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on Wednesday, December 5, 2019 as amended by Trustee Reinhold.

3. Action Items

AP1. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nominations

Committee Chair Alvarez noted that, in anticipation of the meetings, Trustees received comprehensive supporting documentation on each of the Tenure as a Condition of Employment nominees. He solicited comments and/or questions from the Committee members regarding the tenure as a condition of employment nominations. There were no questions from the Committee members.

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 the approval of three (3) candidates for Tenure as a Condition of Employment as specified in the Board materials.

AP2. Proposed Amendments to Regulation FIU-108 Access to Student Education Records

Sr. VP. Bejar presented the proposed revisions to Regulation FIU-108 Access to Student Education Records for Committee review. She explained that the Regulation was last amended in September 2008 and that the proposed revisions are aligned with governing federal laws of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and with the corresponding Florida Board of Governors regulations. She indicated that after feedback from Trustee Reinhold, a few additional areas were reformatted, namely, that sections previously numbered VI, VII, and VIII were corrected and are now reflected as e, f, and g under the Definitions header.

Sr. VP Bejar provided an overview of the substantive changes, noting that these include: 1) additional custodian of records categories and the location of the records; 2) updated information concerning the annual notification to students; 3) clarifying language on the inspection of records, access to and release of records without consent, and requests to amend education records; and 4) updating directory information categories by removing student local and permanent address, telephone numbers, and date and place of birth. She indicated that grammatical changes have also been made as needed and that there are several revisions throughout the regulation, which include renumbering, re-formatting, and consolidating and moving sections for clarity and consistency.

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 revisions to Regulation FIU-108 Access to Student Education Records, and delegate authority to the University President to approve any subsequent non-material amendments based on comments to the Regulation received from the Florida Board of Governors or as a result of the regulation-making process.

AP3. New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity

AP4. New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Arts in English Education

AP5. New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Neuroscience

AP6. New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation and Recreational Therapy

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 new program proposals, namely, agenda items AP3 – AP6. There were no questions from the Committee members.

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 Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity (CIP 11.1003) new program proposal.
- Approve the Bachelor of Arts in English Education (CIP 13.1305) new program proposal.
- Approve the Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Neuroscience (CIP 42.2706) new program proposal.
- Approve the Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation and Recreational Therapy (CIP: 51.2399) new program proposal.

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 Rankings Updates

Provost Furton explained that as part of the FIU Next Horizon Strategic Plan, the University set a goal of being recognized as a top 50 public university. He pointed out that in rankings released by the National Academy of Inventors and the Intellectual Property Owners Association, the University placed 61st in the world for utility patents in 2017 and that in 2018, the University ranked 15th in the nation among public universities and 33rd globally that were issued utility patents. He indicated that the University was ranked #41 in 2018 and #24 in 2019 in CollegeNet's Social Mobility Index. He added that the University is ranked #43 among public national universities in social mobility by *Washington Monthly Magazine*.

Provost Furton explained that the University dropped five spots to #105 in *U.S. News & World Report* rankings and described improvement initiatives, namely marketing strategies and the formation of 12 strategic execution teams to optimize class size and per-student spending. He pointed out that FIU ranked 30th Most Innovative Public University, 10th Top Performers on Social Mobility, and has 40 individual programs ranked in the top 50 by *U.S. News & World Report*. Provost Furton explained that the National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development Survey is the primary source of information on research and development expenditures at U.S. colleges and universities. He provided an overview of University program rankings according to the 2018 Survey, noting that psychology is ranked fourth nationally and #1 in Florida.

In terms of progress towards 2025 Metrics, Provost Furton explained that the University has strategies in place to grow undergraduate and graduate degrees in areas of strategic emphasis. He

described marketing efforts aimed at increasing the percentage of alumni giving annually to the University, which he noted is also part of *U.S. News & World Report* ranking factors. He provided an update on the University's projected 2019-20 Performance Based Funding points.

Provost Furton introduced Assistant Director of Strategic Data Analysis Paden Goldsmith and at the request of Provost Furton, Mr. Goldsmith facilitated a demonstration of the live *U.S. News & World Report* rankings tracker that the University developed. Mr. Goldsmith explained that the tool tracks each of the factors used by *U.S. News & World Report* and has goals established for what is currently the top 50 metric. Trustee Colson commented on the growing importance of *U.S. News & World Report* rankings at the state's legislative level.

5. Student Government Updates

Trustee Sabrina L. Rosell, President of the Student Government Council at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, explained that Student Government leadership is responsible for the appropriation of the Activity and Student Service fee representing approximately \$20M. She commended the recent performance of the FIU Model UN team. She commented on her recent visit to FIU in DC and explained that the election cycle for Student Government Council leadership is underway with two candidates positioned for President.

6. Faculty Senate Updates

Trustee Reinhold, Faculty Senate Chair, explained that FIU's Faculty Senate consists of 62 senators elected proportionally by the faculty of its schools and colleges with each freestanding school or college having at least two senators. He pointed out that the Senate Vice Chair serves as a liaison between the Senate and the FIU Foundation and that the Senate Chair is as a member of the FIU Board of Trustees. He described the Senate's process for reviewing curriculum-related items and pointed out that the review of the Tenure and Promotion manual is in process.

7. New Business

Dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (HWCOC) and Senior Vice President for Health Affairs Robert Sackstein explained that, as was discussed at the December 5, 2019 meeting of the FIU Board of Trustees Health Affairs Committee, plans to pursue the implementation of a pass/fail curriculum at HWCOC are underway. He pointed out that the National Board of Medical Examiners has announced that Step 1 will become a pass/fail scored standardized test. He indicated that the change could decrease the stratification perpetuated by the test and subsequent student ranking.

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 Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 11:34 a.m.

There were no Trustee requests.