



**Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee
March 3, 2022**

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

MINUTES

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 Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 10:02 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 (via Zoom)*; 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*.

Trustee Gene Prescott and University Interim President Kenneth A. Jessell 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.

Committee Chair Lowell commented that, on January 28, 2022, Interim President Kenneth A. Jessell announced the appointment of Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar as Interim Provost and Executive Vice President which was effective March 1, 2022. Interim Provost Bejar remarked on her commitment to scale and leverage the multitude of strengths across the University's academic and operational enterprise. She added that she has been collaborating with Interim Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Aime Martinez on internal transitions to ensure a seamless process.

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Lowell asked that the Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 8, 2021. A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on December 8, 2021.

3. Action Items

AP1. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nominations

Committee Chair Lowell explained that Tenure as a Condition of Employment (TACOE) is proposed for two (2) candidates. She explained 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.

Interim Provost Bejar pointed out that TACOE is reserved for individuals who have achieved highly prestigious academic careers prior to becoming FIU faculty. She indicated that the TACOE candidates have either received, or are eligible for, tenure at their prior institutions and explained that, at the time of hire, the faculty candidate understands that the tenure and rank appointment will be granted upon an expedited review of the candidate's materials by the department, the college, the Provost, the President, and the FIU Board of Trustees. Interim Provost Bejar indicated that the TACOE candidates have been vetted and briefly commented on each candidate.

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 two (2) candidates for Tenure as a Condition of Employment as specified in the Board materials.

AP2. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-406 Foreign Student Admissions

Interim Provost Bejar presented the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-406 Foreign Student Admissions for Committee review. She explained that the proposed revisions to FIU-406 provide better alignment with Florida Board of Governors Regulation 6.009. She indicated that the proposed revisions include a title change, establish English language equivalencies, declaration and certification of finances, requirements of health history forms, immunizations, and medical insurance documentation, and obligations to comply with the various requirements of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the United States Department of Homeland Security and the United States Department of State.

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 amendment to Regulation FIU-406 Foreign Student Admissions 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 and as a result of the regulation-making process.

AP3. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-105 Sexual Harassment (Title IX) and Sexual Misconduct

Interim Provost Bejar presented the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-105 Sexual Harassment (Title IX) and Sexual Misconduct for Committee review. She explained that the regulation is being amended to revise the directory and contact information for the Title IX Coordinator and the Deputy Title IX Coordinators. She added that the proposed revisions also include a scrivener's error on page 116, which was identified and updated accordingly.

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 the amendment of Regulation FIU-105 Sexual Harassment (Title IX) and Sexual Misconduct, 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 and as a result of the regulation-making process.

AP4. Program Termination of the Bachelor of Arts in Geography

AP5. Program Termination of the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

Committee Chair Lowell explained that agenda items AP4 and AP5 relate to program terminations and that while the Committee will vote on the items separately, Interim Provost Bejar will present the program terminations together.

Interim Provost Bejar presented the proposals to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in Geography and the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology for Committee review. She commented that the Department of Global and Social Studies implemented a new Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies in 2019 and that said degree meets the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) Program of Strategic Emphasis category of Global. She stated that, subsequently, the Department implemented Geography and Sociology majors in the new degree to better reflect the global approach utilized in the curriculum of the disciplines.

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 termination of the Bachelor of Arts in Geography (CIP 45.0701).

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 termination of the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (CIP 45.1101).

AP6. New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Arts in Global Languages, Cultures and Literatures

Interim Provost Bejar presented the Bachelor of Arts in Global Languages, Cultures and Literatures new program proposal for Committee review. She remarked that the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Global Languages, Cultures and Literatures (GLCL) degree is listed under the strategic emphasis area “Global” by the BOG. She commented that the GLCL degree allows for a customized curriculum through which students can explore one or two language specializations. Interim Provost Bejar mentioned that the GLCL degree is designed to prepare students for graduate school, professional schools or careers in education, translation/interpretation, foreign service, and international business, or other careers that require, and/or value as a competitive advantage advanced communication skills in foreign languages as well as critical thinking and a cross-cultural understanding of today’s globalized world.

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 approval of the Bachelor of Arts in Global Languages, Cultures and Literatures (CIP 16.0101) new program proposal.

4. Student Government Updates

Trustee Alexander Rubido, Student Government President, commented on the upcoming student government elections. He stated that after the Activity and Service fee budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year is ratified by the Student Government Senate, it will be presented for Interim Provost Bejar’s approval. He commented on his experience auditing an Honors College class. Trustee Rubido

announced the formation of a working group to address the recent decline in student engagement on campus, adding that recommendations will be developed for future organizational leadership.

5. Faculty Senate Updates

Trustee Reinhold, Faculty Senate Chair, commented on Faculty Senate curriculum bulletins. He remarked on Dr. Mark B. Rosenberg's resignation as President of FIU. He explained that the Faculty Senate, at its January 25, 2022 meeting, passed the following resolution: "The Faculty Senate expresses our disappointment, frustration, and sadness at the news of the past days. Sexual harassment cannot be tolerated. We share our support and empathy for the victim; no staff, student, faculty, or administrator should ever feel unsafe in our FIU community. While the University explicitly forbids such discriminatory and traumatizing actions, FIU cannot tolerate a culture in which sexual harassment is quietly allowed. We must educate faculty, staff, students, and administrators on the nature of sexual harassment and ensure that the processes available for victims to speak out are safe and confidential, regardless of the power that the perpetrator holds. Moreover, any individuals aware of such occurrences must speak out. As a University working toward greater diversity, equity, and inclusion, this horrible situation offers an opportunity for our community to grow and learn."

Trustee Reinhold commented on the faculty's support relating to the appointments of Interim President Jessell and Interim Provost Bejar.

Board Chair Dean C. Colson committed the Board's support in terms of messaging that sexual harassment will not be tolerated.

6. 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.

7. New Business

In response to Trustee Donna J. Hrinak, Interim Provost Bejar commented on the February 24, 2022 University-wide message regarding support for those affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Interim Provost Bejar indicated that the University has sent targeted communications to the affected student and employee population. She added that FIU will work to address the issues and needs of said population. She remarked that the recent webinar regarding the conflict in Ukraine featured Professor David J. Kramer of the FIU Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs and was attended by over 70 FIU students.

In response to Trustee Marc D. Sarnoff, Interim President Jessell stated that FIU has joined other institutions and nations in condemnation of the unproved attack and stand in support and unity with the Ukrainian people. Interim Provost Bejar commented on FIU's critical role in providing multiple avenues for educating and informing the University community. Also responding to Trustee Sarnoff, Interim President Jessell remarked that FIU can connect the University community with external entities that are coordinating donations that directly benefit the citizens of Ukraine. Responding to Trustee Sarnoff, General Counsel Castillo indicated that he would follow-up with the Board of

Trustees at the later Full Board Meeting in terms of the request for a Board of Trustees Resolution in support of Ukraine.

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 Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 10:54 a.m.