



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ACADEMIC POLICY AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
JUNE 16, 2021**

**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 Vice Chair Donna J. Hrinak on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 10:49 a.m. at the FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms and via Zoom.

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 (via Zoom)*; Donna J Hrinak, *Committee Vice Chair*; Cesar L. Alvarez (*via Zoom*); 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 (via Zoom)*.

Trustee Jose J. Armas, *Health Affairs Liaison*, was excused.

Trustee Gene Prescott and University President Mark B. Rosenberg were also in attendance.

Committee Vice Chair Hrinak welcomed all Trustees and members of the University administration. She also welcomed Trustees, University administrators, and staff attending via the virtual environment and the University community and general public accessing the meeting via the University's webcast. She introduced and welcomed Student Government President and student Trustee Alexander Rubido.

Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton commented that Dr. Joanne Li, Dean of the College of Business, has accepted the position of Chancellor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He added that Dr. William Hardin is serving as Interim Dean while the University conducts a national search for the next Dean of the College of Business. Provost Furton referred Trustees to the handout pertaining to the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) 2021 Performance-Based Funding Model final metric score sheet, commenting on FIU's total score of 97. He remarked that FIU's score of 97 is the highest score ever earned in Performance-Based Funding Model history.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

Committee Vice Chair Hrinak asked that the Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 23, 2021. A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on February 23, 2021.

## **3. Action Items**

### **AP1. Tenure Nominations**

Committee Vice Chair Hrinak explained that 22 candidates were nominated for tenure, stating that the nominees selected to receive tenure have demonstrated excellence in scholarly and academic achievement. Provost Furton remarked that one of the most important factors in achieving top-50 recognition in *U.S. News & World Report* is recruiting and retaining high-level faculty who can help facilitate student learning as well as conduct impactful research. He provided an overview of the University's tenure process, noting that the review process is extensive with a very rigorous assessment of the faculty member's dossier at a number of levels. He indicated that once a faculty member is awarded tenure, there is an annual review process and an assignment by their department chair, adding that said faculty member is subjected to differential assignments based on their productivity on an annual basis and a sustained performance evaluation is conducted every seven (7) years.

Provost Furton pointed out that 23 faculty members began the tenure review process with one (1) candidate subsequently withdrawing their application, adding that 22 faculty members were successful in completing the tenure review process. He mentioned that, collectively, the tenure candidates have achieved over \$17M in external funding and published over 447 peer reviewed publications that have been cited more than 7,000 times.

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 Tenure Nominations as specified in the Board materials.

### **AP2. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nominations**

Committee Vice Chair Hrinak explained that there are nine (9) Tenure as a Condition of Employment (TACOE) nominations, adding that the TACOE candidates already have achieved tenure or are eligible for tenure at their respective institutions at the time of hire. Provost Furton presented the TACOE nominations for Committee review, noting that all nine (9) TACOE nominees are tenured at their current institutions. He added that, at the time of hiring, the respective departments and colleges have completed the tenure review process and have vetted the candidates' scholarly qualifications, stating that he and the President recommend the nominees for TACOE. Provost Furton briefly commented on each of the TACOE candidates, noting that six (6) of the nine (9) TACOE candidates are being funded from the \$32M legislative allocation.

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 nine (9) candidates for Tenure as a Condition of Employment as specified in the Board materials.

### **AP3. Program Termination Doctor of Education in Exceptional Student Education**

Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar presented the program termination of the Doctor of Education in Exceptional Student Education for Committee review. She remarked that all programmatic action items involving doctoral programs require the final approval of the BOG. She indicated that, as part of a multi-year process in improving and streamlining the University's graduate academic offerings, the PhD in Teaching and Learning was revised to include a specialization in exceptional student education. Sr. VP Bejar commented that said specialization was formed in 2019, stating that existing students had the opportunity to transition or to complete their existing program. She pointed out that, of the 11 students in the program at the time, nine (9) transitioned to the PhD seamlessly and two (2) opted out and have since completed and graduated from the program. She mentioned that the University has determined that it is now time to close the original degree given the success of the new specialization in the PhD in Teaching and Learning and that there are no students left in the original program.

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 to recommend to the Board of Governors termination of the Doctor of Education in Exceptional Student Education (CIP 13.1001).

### **AP4. Florida International University Annual Accountability Plan, 2021, Revision**

Provost Furton presented the revision to FIU's 2021 Accountability Plan for Committee review. He explained that subsequent to Board of Trustees approval of the University's Accountability Plan on April 21, 2021, the BOG requested that all universities change the 2020-21 goals for online full-time equivalent (FTE) metrics to reflect actuals instead of goals. He referred to the agenda materials, which highlight the suggested changes. He pointed out that, in the year prior to COVID, 39% of the University's courses were considered 100% distance. He added that the BOG's goal for distance learning is 40%, noting that during the pandemic, the University's courses considered 100% distance increased to 77%. Provost Furton mentioned that the University expects to return to 39% distance and 61% in-person learning for the summer B term. He explained that the average cost to the student, which had previously been calculated at 3,930 was now changed to 3,950, indicating that said revision was a mathematical correction by the BOG.

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 Annual Accountability Plan revision 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.

## **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 Rubido commented on the areas that student government will be focusing on for the upcoming year, specifically on-campus student repopulation and student engagement, addressing and advocating for the requests and needs of the student body, and increasing student spaces around campus. He commented that, with the return to normalcy, student government will continue focusing on bringing students back to campus and providing them with the best and most state-of-the-art facilities to aid them in their pursuit of academic success.

In response to Committee Chair Natasha Lowell, Trustee Rubido remarked that student government designed a commission to evaluate all student spaces, noting that large populations of students congregate in the Graham University Center, therefore, said space is a priority. He also mentioned academic buildings, food service retail buildings, and the Management and New Growth Opportunities (MANGO) building as priorities.

## **6. Faculty Senate Updates**

Trustee Reinhold, Faculty Senate Chair, commented on the June 8, 2021, Faculty Senate meeting, noting that while the Faculty Senate reviewed several curriculum action items, the summer agenda is generally lighter given that faculty are focusing on their respective research and scholarly activities during the summer.

In response to Trustee Marc D. Sarnoff, Provost Furton commented that while the University is not aware of the percentage of faculty members that have received the COVID-19 vaccine, faculty members were (among those) given priority in terms of vaccines administered on campus.

## **7. New Business**

No new business was raised.

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

With no other business, Committee Vice Chair Donna J. Hrinak adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 11:19 a.m.