



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC POLICY AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 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 Natasha Lowell on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 9:51 AM 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, *Chair*; Cesar L. Alvarez; Jose J. Armas, *Health Affairs Liaison*; Dean C. Colson, *Board Chair*; Joerg Reinhold; Marc D. Sarnoff; Roger Tovar, *Board Vice Chair and Athletics Liaison*; and Alexandra Valdes.

Committee Vice Chair Donna J. Hrinak was excused.

Trustees Leonard Boord, Gerald C. Grant, Jr., Gene Prescott, and Claudia Puig, and University President Mark B. Rosenberg were also in attendance.

Committee Chair Lowell welcomed Trustees and University administrators participating via the virtual environment and explained that the University community and general public were accessing the meeting via the FIU webcast.

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Lowell asked that the Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting held on June 16, 2020. Trustee Joerg Reinhold requested that the Minutes of the June 16, 2020 Meeting of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee be amended to reflect that "...the Faculty Senate has, among other items, *discussed proposed changes to the Tenure and Promotion manual...*" and that "He described one new such *program...*" (*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 June 16, 2020 as amended by Trustee Reinhold.

3. Action Items

AP1. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nominations

Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton presented the Tenure as a Condition of Employment (TACOE) nominations for Committee review, noting that TACOE is reserved for individuals who are under recruitment by FIU and have achieved highly prestigious academic careers at other institutions. He explained that the TACOE candidates have either already achieved tenure or are eligible for tenure at comparable institutions at the time of hire, adding that TACOE candidates understand that they will be hired with tenure pending a review by the department, the College, the Provost, the President, and finally, the Board of Trustees. Provost Furton briefly commented on each of the TACOE candidates.

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 six (6) candidates for Tenure as a Condition of Employment.

AP2. Legislative Budget Requests

Provost Furton presented the Legislative Budget requests for Committee review. He commented on the \$4.99M request pertaining to the Strengthening Minority Achievement and Results through Teaching (SMART) Pipeline, adding that the objective of the request is to transform and re-engineer FIU STEM programs and courses to optimize the retention, graduation rate marketability, and career creation and placement. Provost Furton remarked on the \$15.15M request relating to the Program of Distinction in Environmental Resilience, indicating that FIU was designated as a university of distinction in environmental resilience by the Florida Board of Governors. He explained that the program is aligned with utilizing FIU's interdisciplinary core competence in addressing 21st Century environmental challenges and that the program's mission is to address environmental challenges by creating data-driven solutions and educating the work force of tomorrow in strategic areas of focus.

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 2021-2022 Legislative Budget Requests as specified in the Board materials.

AP3. Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Annual Report

Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar presented the Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Annual Report for Committee review. She explained that effective July 1, 2016, Florida House Bill 7019, Education Access and Affordability, requires the Florida Board of Governors and the State Board of Education to annually identify strategies to promote college affordability. She indicated that 349 sections throughout 91 fall and spring courses did not require the purchase of textbooks or course materials, adding that this benefitted over 26,000 undergraduate students enrolled in those courses. Sr. VP Bejar indicated that while faculty and staff diligently submitted textbook and course material adoptions 45 days or earlier before the semester for over 14,400 course sections across fall and spring last academic year, there were 786 core sections that did not meet the deadline due to the merging of sections or other last-minute scheduling or assignment changes.

Sr. VP Bejar remarked that a 95% threshold was achieved in fall 2019 and that in spring 2020, the 94.2% adoption rate did not meet the goal of 95%. She pointed out that FIU has consulted with Florida Board of Governors staff and that the University is collaborating with Barnes & Noble College to develop, and put into place effective the spring semester, a customized system that would work to ensure that any adoption after the deadline has an approved exception that is properly documented upon submission. She mentioned that FIU Online spearheaded a state-wide initiative that generated \$1.9M in savings for more than 13,000 students and that FIU libraries provided access to 4.6M items in electronic format.

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 Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Annual Report.

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. Faculty Senate Updates

Trustee Reinhold, Faculty Senate Chair, commented that since the Board's Full Board Meeting on June 16, 2020, the Faculty Senate passed a resolution on racial, social, and community justice and also submitted a proposal for inclusion by the University's Equity Action Initiative. He remarked on the Faculty Senate's September 8, 2020 meeting, noting that Vice Provost for Population Health and Well-Being Yolangel Hernandez-Suarez, MD, reported on the role of the COVID Response Team. He indicated that upon the conclusion of the Senate meeting, representatives to the Steering and Nominating Committees were elected. Trustee Reinhold pointed out that the Steering Committee meets the week before every Senate meeting and sets the agenda for Senate meetings. He mentioned that the Senate's next meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2020 and that some of the items that the Senate will resume work on are finalizing changes to the Tenure and Promotion Manual, 10-year review of the Faculty Senate Constitution, and interfacing and supporting the strategic plan working groups.

6. Student Government Updates

Trustee Alexandra Valdes, President of the Student Government Council at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, commented on fundraising efforts to raise awareness for the on-campus food pantry, on the start of a platform that focuses on student conversations, and on the launch of a mentorship program in collaboration with the Alumni Association. She indicated that for the first time ever, student organizations and councils are recruiting 100% virtually. In terms of physical presence on campus, she remarked on actively engaging with students relating to the remainder of the fall semester and the start of the spring semester.

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, September 9, 2020 at 10:16 AM.

There were no Trustee requests.