



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC POLICY AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2019

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 11:11 a.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at the FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms.

Committee Chair Alvarez welcomed all Trustees and University faculty and staff to the meeting.

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*; Dean C. Colson; Joerg Reinhold; Sabrina L. Rosell; and Marc D. Sarnoff.

Trustees Jose J. Armas, *Board Vice Chair* and Michael G. Joseph were excused.

Trustees Leonard Boord, Gerald C. Grant, Jr., Justo L. Pozo, and Roger Tovar, and University President Mark B. Rosenberg were also in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Alvarez asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 4, 2019 Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting. A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on Monday, March 4, 2019.

3. Action Items

AP1. Proposed Regulation FIU-2504 Student Religious Observances, Practices, and Beliefs

Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar presented the proposed regulation FIU-2504 Student Religious Observances, Practices, and Beliefs for Committee review. She explained that the proposed Regulation, FIU-2504, provides direction to faculty, staff, and students regarding a student's rights and responsibilities related to the observance of their religious practices in the admissions process, their classroom attendance, and completion of assignments/exams. She indicated that FIU-2504 also outlines the student grievance procedure if a student believes their religious observances, practices, or beliefs are not reasonably accommodated.

She noted that while the University has a currently policy relating to this matter, the Florida Board of Governors requires that State institutions codify as part of a regulation.

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 proposed Regulation FIU-2504 Student Religious Observances, Practices, and Beliefs.

AP2. Honorary Degree Nomination

Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton presented the Honorary Degree Nomination for Committee review, noting that the honorary degree nominee, Mr. Charles R. “Chipper” Wichman, Jr., has been the director, CEO and president of the National Tropical Botanic Garden (NTBG), since 2003. Provost Furton indicated that under Mr. Wichman’s leadership, NTBG has invested substantially in their South Florida garden, the Kampong and that in partnership with FIU the Kampong is growing as a center for botanical exploration and conservation, with plans for the headquarters of the International Center for Tropical Botany nearing completion. Provost Furton stated that a thorough background check has been completed on the nominee.

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 endorse Mr. Charles R. “Chipper” Wichman, Jr. as a recipient of a doctoral degree *honoris causa* from Florida International University.

AP3. University Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Committee Chair Alvarez explained that the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee has met on a monthly basis over the last five months in order to engage in substantive review and discussion on the University’s next strategic plan.

Provost Furton presented the University Strategic Plan 2020-2025 for Committee review, highlighting key revisions since the Committee’s last meeting. He explained that the vision statement was revised in order to better emphasize the University’s aspirations of excellence and that FIU’s vision, as outlined in the Next Horizon 2025 strategic plan, supports the State University System vision. He stated that the Florida Board of Governors expects universities to develop and maintain their respective focus on strategic priorities and that FIU’s three strategic priorities, relating to amplifying learner success and institutional affinity, accelerating preeminence and research innovation impact, and assuring responsible stewardship, remain as previously presented to the Board of Trustees.

Provost Furton indicated that the Next Horizon 2025 strategic plan is a three-part plan consisting of a framework, budget white paper, and an implementation plan. He explained that the strategic plan framework proposes to maintain student headcount flat at the undergraduate level in order to focus efforts on increasing student success, ensuring timely graduation, and aligning curriculum with career needs. Relating to the area of critical competencies, he mentioned that these are being reviewed in terms of the University’s Quality Enhancement Plan. Provost Furton then described the

University's possible rankings within U.S. News & World Report Top 50 Public universities in terms of the University's performance in relation to the University's strategic plan goals.

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 the University Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

4. New Business

No new business was raised.

5. 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 Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 11:26 a.m.

There were no Trustee requests.