



Emergency Meeting
January 21, 2022
via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

Board Chair Dean C. Colson convened the Emergency Meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees at 4:07 p.m. on Friday, January 21, 2022.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Florida International University Board of Trustees and verified a quorum. Present were Dean C. Colson, *Board Chair*; Roger Tovar, *Board Vice Chair*; Cesar L. Alvarez; Jose J. Armas; Carlos A. Duarte; Donna J. Hrinak; Natasha Lowell; Gene Prescott; Joerg Reinhold; Chanel T. Rowe; Alexander Rubido; Marc D. Sarnoff; and Carlos Trujillo.

Board Chair Colson explained that the University community and general public were accessing the Zoom meeting via the FIU webcast.

Board Chair Colson stated that the Board's Bylaws provide that the Board Chair may allow an item to be presented to the Full Board without prior consideration by a Board committee when circumstances warrant.

Board Chair Colson explained that the Board's Bylaws, namely, section 6.4 (Emergency Meetings), provide that meetings of the Board may be held for the purpose of acting on emergency matters affecting the University or public health, safety, or welfare. He pointed out that, as per the Board's Emergency Meeting procedures, notice of the Emergency Meeting was posted on the Board's website and forwarded to major newspapers of general circulation.

2. Action Item

BT1. Appointment of Dr. Kenneth A. Jessell as Interim President of Florida International University

Board Chair Colson explained that Trustees were briefed on the matter, adding that earlier in the afternoon, he received and accepted Dr. Mark B. Rosenberg's resignation, effective January 21, 2022.

Board Chair Colson commented that Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 1.002 (Presidential Search and Selection) makes provision for the appointment of an interim president and provides, in pertinent part, that in the event that a board of trustees selects an interim president, such selection is subject to confirmation of the candidate by the Board of Governors. He added that if it is determined by the Board of Trustees to be in the best interests of the University, the interim

president selected by the Board of Trustees may be delegated full authority to serve as the interim president during the period prior to confirmation by the BOG. Board Chair Colson stated that if continued service as interim president requires confirmation by the BOG, the candidate selected by the Board of Trustees shall be required to appear before the BOG at the meeting where confirmation will be considered. He further stated that such meeting will be held as soon as practicable to ensure a timely transition.

Board Chair Colson remarked on speaking with Senior Vice President of Administration and Chief Financial Officer Kenneth A. Jessell, and subsequently nominated Sr. VP and CFO Jessell to serve as Interim President of the University. Board Chair Colson explained that it is in the best interests of the University that Dr. Jessell be delegated the full authority to serve as the Interim President pending confirmation of his appointment by the BOG.

Board Chair Colson explained that Dr. Jessell has served as the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer at FIU since July 2009. Board Chair Colson provided an overview of Dr. Jessell's 26-year career at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Board Chair Colson added that Dr. Jessell served in several key leadership positions, including Interim University Provost, Interim Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the FAU Foundation, Associate University Provost, and Associate Dean in the College of Business Administration.

Trustees voiced their support of Dr. Jessell serving as Interim President of Florida International University.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that Dr. Jessell be appointed Interim President of the University and that because it is in the best interests of the University, that he be delegated, consistent with Regulation 1.002 of the Board of Governors, full authority to serve as the Interim President pending confirmation of his appointment by the Board of Governors.

Interim President Jessell thanked the Board of Trustees for the opportunity to serve as University President, remarking on his appreciation to the Board and commitment to serve FIU's students, faculty, staff, and alumni to the best of his ability.

3. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Board Chair Colson read the following excerpt from his January 21, 2022, letter to the University community: "I look forward to working with the entire university community as we search for our next President. I believe the FIU presidency is one of the great jobs in higher education. [FIU is] located in one of the world's great cities [and] it is inevitable that FIU will become one of the preeminent research universities in America. I can assure you that our next leader [our next president] will be committed to that mission."

Board Chair Colson commented on the forthcoming presential search process.

Board Chair Dean C. Colson adjourned the Emergency Meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees on Friday, January 21, 2022, at 4:19 p.m.

Dean C. Colson
Chair
FIU Board of Trustees

Kenneth A. Jessell
Corporate Secretary
FIU Board of Trustees