



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FULL BOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 3, 2020  
MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks**

Board Chair Dean C. Colson convened the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees at 12:12 p.m. on Thursday, December 3, 2020, via Zoom.

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*; Jose J. Armas (*joined after roll call*); Leonard Boord; Gerald C. Grant, Jr.; Donna J. Hrinak; Natasha Lowell; Gene Prescott; Claudia Puig; Joerg Reinhold; Marc D. Sarnoff; and Alexandra Valdes.

Trustee Cesar L. Alvarez was excused.

Board Chair Colson welcomed Trustees and University administrators and commented that, with everyone's health and safety in mind, he changed the platform for the Board's December 3, 2020 meetings from in-person to virtual.

**2. Public Appearances**

*There were no public appearances.*

**3. Foundation Report**

FIU Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors Chair Humberto "Burt" Cabañas commented on the initial months of his chairmanship. He explained that he has held meetings with key stakeholders, aligned the Foundation's goals with the University's pursuit of Top-50 ranking, and met with communication leads from each college in order to help the Foundation Board tell the FIU story with greater relevancy. He remarked on the Foundation's efforts to finish the campaign, adding that the engagement, philanthropy, and fundraising activities of the volunteer leadership is critical to this effort.

Chair Cabañas highlighted actual vs. budget in regard to cash contributions, investment returns, program and general support to the University, and operating expenses. He reported that, through September, cash contributions are favorable by \$2M, that the favorable variance of \$7.2M in investment returns is based on the actual returns for the fiscal year to-date, that the favorable variance of \$3M in program and general support to FIU is due to delays in University capital

projects, and that the favorable variance of \$600,000 in operating expenses was a result of delays in events, travel, and hiring. He remarked that the Next Horizon Campaign has, to-date, reached 77% of its \$750M goal and that, to-date, \$11M has been raised towards the \$79M goal for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Chair Cabañas commented that the two most recent years of available alumni giving rates are averaged and used in *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. He added that FIU's 2020 rate is 4.48% and stated that the goal is to increase the alumni giving rate to 18% by 2025. He mentioned that completion scholarships support undergraduate students nearing graduation to complete their education and receive their degree. He reported that as of October 31, 2020, the Foundation's total investment portfolio stands at approximately \$312.3M and that the Total Managed Assets returned 2.7%.

#### **4. Board of Trustees Self Evaluation Survey**

Board Chair Colson commented on the Board's self-evaluation survey, adding that a 100% response rate was critical. He urged Board members that had not yet done so to complete the survey and commented on plans to follow-up on the survey results at the Board's February meeting.

#### **5. President's Report**

University President Mark B. Rosenberg commented on increases over the prior year in spring, summer, and fall enrollment and in degrees awarded for spring and summer. He stated that, despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the University's research enterprise has experienced year-over-year increases in the number of grant proposals. He shared photographs from the fall pre-commencement caravan, noting that the fall virtual commencement is scheduled for December 11, 2020.

President Rosenberg mentioned that, consistent with the approach requested by the Board of Trustees, the University has significantly reduced the number of remote classes and also increased the opportunity for on-campus student learning in the spring. He described a hybrid/HyFlex approach that includes over 1,600 distinct course sections, adding that approximately 1,800 distinct course sections are expected to be in-person. He remarked that the University will continue to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, which still maintain six feet of distancing. President Rosenberg pointed out that approximately 53% of course sections will be on campus, stating that the remaining course sections will be fully online or synchronous remote. He indicated that over the last several weeks, library availability has been modified and that the range of available services continues to be expanded. He remarked on the significant reduction in remote work and that while physical distancing guidelines may limit the full return of certain units, it is the expectation that all offices will be open in the spring. In terms of online and on-campus course sections, he highlighted a comparison of spring terms beginning in 2017 through what is expected for spring 2021.

President Rosenberg described the University's COVID-19 testing capabilities, adding that through its partnership with Curative, testing kiosks have been established around campus. He mentioned that the surveillance testing positivity rate is lower than that of the community, noting that this reflects the University's robust education efforts. He commended the University's health care

providers and first responders, recognizing their dedicated efforts and tireless work. In response to Board Vice Chair Roger Tovar, Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton commented that the University strives to provide as many testing options as possible for students. President Rosenberg remarked on the University's diversified testing strategy, adding that the administering of tests is far less challenging than obtaining rapid results. Associate Dean, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Eneida Roldan, MD explained that the difference in testing options is the turnaround time. She pointed out that results from commercial labs are received between 30 to up 48 hours after leaving the on-campus clinics, adding that it is critical to have a 24-hour or same day turnaround for student athletes in addition to surveillance testing. She indicated that Curative offered 24 to 30 hours turnaround from the point the test leaves the trailer, adding that in terms of the Curative trailers, Curative has the ability to adjust the capacity based on the University's needs. In response to further inquiry from Board Vice Chair Tovar, Dr. Roldan described Curative's billing process and also provided an update on the University's CLIA approved lab, stating that three individuals are in various stages of the hiring process and that all are expected to join FIU by January 4, 2020. President Rosenberg noted that, upon return from the holiday break, all University housing residents will be required to undergo testing prior to being allowed entry into the residence halls.

## **6. Action Items – Consent Agenda**

Chair Colson explained that the Consent Agenda was amended to include the new business item, the Florida International University Mission Statement, reviewed by the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee. He indicated that the Finance and Facilities Committee recommended approval by the Board of action item FF1, that the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommended approval by the Board of action items AP1, as well as the new business item, and that the Governance Committee recommended approval by the Board of action items G1 and G2 contained in the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to accept the amended Consent Agenda, and members of the Board unanimously approved the following actions:

- **BT1. Minutes, August 12, 2020 and BT2. Minutes, September 9, 2020** - Approval of Minutes of the FIU Board of Trustees, Full Board meetings held on August 12, 2020 and on September 9, 2020, via Zoom.
  
- **FF1. FIU Direct Support Organizations Financial Audits FY 2019-2020**
  - A. FIU Foundation Inc.** - Accept the Florida International University Foundation, Inc. Financial Audit for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year and authorize the CEO of the Florida International University Foundation, Inc. to take all actions necessary pertaining to this Financial Audit, including filing the report with the Auditor General.
  
  - B. FIU Research Foundation, Inc.** - Accept the Florida International University Research Foundation, Inc. Financial Audit for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year and authorize the President of the Florida International University Research Foundation, Inc. to take all actions necessary pertaining to this Financial Audit, including filing the report with the Auditor General.

**C. FIU Athletics Finance Corporation** - Accept the Florida International University Athletics Finance Corporation Financial Audit for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year and authorize the Executive Director of the Florida International University Athletics Finance Corp. to take all actions necessary pertaining to this Financial Audit, including filing the report with the Auditor General.

**D. FIU Academic Health Center Health Care Network Faculty Group Practice, Inc.** - Accept the Florida International University Academic Health Center Health Care Network Faculty Group Practice, Inc. Financial Audit for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year and authorize the President of the Florida International University Academic Health Center Health Care Network Faculty Group Practice, Inc. to take all actions necessary pertaining to this Financial Audit, including filing the report with the Auditor General.

- **AP1. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nominations** – Approve four (4) candidates for Tenure as a Condition of Employment as specified in the Board materials.
- **AP2. (New Business Item for the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee) Review and Approval of the Florida International University Mission Statement** - Review and approval of the Florida International University Mission Statement.
- **G1. Direct Support Organizations Board Appointment** - Approve the appointment of the individual listed in the board materials, to the Florida International University Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors.
- **G2. Ratification of the 2020-2023 Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Florida International University Board of Trustees and the Florida Nurses Association, Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 713, AFL-CIO (Local 713)** - Ratify the 2020-2023 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Florida International University Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Florida Nurses Association, Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 713, AFL-CIO (Local 713).

## 7. Action Item

### **FF2. Trish and Dan Bell Chapel and East Loop Road Realignment—Naming and Approval of Design**

Finance and Facilities Committee Chair Leonard Boord pointed out that the Committee engaged in a thorough review of the Trish and Dan Bell Chapel and East Loop Road realignment, naming and approval of design. There were no further questions from the Trustees. He stated that the Finance and Facilities Committee recommended the item for Board approval.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the naming of The Trish and Dan Bell Chapel (“Chapel”), the design of the Chapel, the design of roadway improvements on the east side of the FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus (MMC) necessary to accommodate the construction of the Chapel and the future expansion of the Graham Center, and amendment of the 2010-20 University MMC Campus Master Plan to include the Chapel and

roadway improvements as contemplated in the proposed 2015-2030 University MMC Campus Master Plan. Upon approval by the Florida International University Board of Trustees, the Chapel and roadway improvements capital budget requests will be submitted to the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) for approval in accordance with BOG Regulation 14.003.

#### **8. Status Reports, Board Committees**

Chair Colson requested to defer the Status Reports. There were no objections.

#### **9. New Business**

President Rosenberg introduced a pre-recorded holiday vocal performance by School of Music student, Ms. Johna Denis.

#### **10. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**

With no other business, Board Chair Dean C. Colson adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Full Board on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 1:01 p.m.

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Dean C. Colson  
*Chair*  
*FIU Board of Trustees*

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Mark B. Rosenberg  
*Corporate Secretary*  
*FIU Board of Trustees*