



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FULL BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 26, 2020  
MINUTES**

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

Board Chair Claudia Puig convened the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees at 1:05 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at the FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Florida International University Board of Trustees and verified a quorum. Present were Claudia Puig, *Board Chair*; Cesar L. Alvarez; Leonard Boord; Dean C. Colson; Gerald C. Grant, Jr.; Donna J. Hrinak; Natasha Lowell; T. Gene Prescott; Joerg Reinhold; Sabrina L. Rosell; Marc D. Sarnoff; and Roger Tovar.

Board Vice Chair Jose J. Armas was excused.

Chair Puig welcomed all Trustees and University faculty and staff to the meeting. Chair Puig welcomed Trustee Donna J. Hrinak, noting that the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) appointed Trustee Hrinak, who succeeds Mr. Justo L. Pozo, to the FIU Board of Trustees for a five-year term that began January 6, 2020. Chair Puig indicated that Governor Ron DeSantis reappointed Trustee Leonard Boord and appointed Trustee Gene Prescott, to the FIU Board of Trustees for five-year terms that began January 31, 2020. Chair Puig welcomed Trustee Prescott, adding that Trustee Prescott succeeds Mr. Michael G. Joseph.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Puig extended a special welcome to Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Chair Puig thanked the members of the FIU Board of Trustees who traveled to Tallahassee for FIU Day with the delegation of students, administrators, and faculty to advocate for the University's legislative priorities.

**2. Public Appearances**

*There were no public appearances.*

**3. Foundation Report**

Senior Vice President of University Advancement Howard R. Lipman presented the Foundation Report, reporting that the Next Horizon Campaign has raised \$553M to-date towards the \$750M goal. He described major gifts, namely, Bacardi USA, \$5M in support of the Chaplin School of

Hospitality and Tourism Management; the Braman Family Foundation, \$1.2M in support of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine's Linda Fenner 3D Mobile Mammography Center; Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton and Emily Gresham, \$1M in support of the College of Arts, Sciences and Education; Stuart Harris, \$514K in support of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences' RN scholarships; Conchi and Antonio Argiz, \$500K, in support of College of Business scholarships. Sr. VP Lipman pointed out that the Carnival Gold Scholar program is now in its sixth cohort and introduced a video that featured several scholarship recipients. He commented on recent events that offer unparalleled hands-on student experience, namely, the Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival (SOBEWFF®) and the North Miami BrewFest. Sr. VP Lipman reported on the \$200K planned gift from FIU alumnus Fang Shu.

In terms of the second phase of the paid media campaign, Sr. VP Lipman introduced a video that featured student success. He introduced a video that highlighted the University's achievements at the District III CASE Awards. He invited the University community to attend the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Torch Awards Gala on March 28, 2020, noting that Mr. Regynald G. Washington will be recognized as alumnus of the year and that Gala proceeds will support the FIU Alumni Center and the First-Generation Scholarship Fund. Sr. VP Lipman indicated that, as of January 31, 2020, the Foundation's investment portfolio totaled approximately \$312.5M. He explained that the Foundation Board of Directors has initiated a competitive solicitation process for the hiring of a new Chief Investment Officer.

#### **4. President's Report**

University President Mark B. Rosenberg indicated that FIU Ignite, the annual faculty and staff giving campaign for the University, has raised a total of \$27M to-date. He introduced Mr. Lee Caplin, Founder and Chairman of the Picture Entertainment Corporation, noting that Mr. Caplin serves as a member of the Dean's Leadership Advisory Board for the FIU College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts.

With respect to Coronavirus, President Rosenberg reported that, to-date, FIU has issued eight separate communications to the University community. He pointed out that the University is closely monitoring the situation and working with the appropriate internal stakeholders to plan for a potential conversion to a fully digital academic platform should the situation worsen thus requiring a University closure. He described University travel restrictions and protocols related to safety and screening and delineated next steps, namely, that a tabletop exercise is scheduled to discuss the impacts of a potential pandemic that would affect the University community and a possible University closure and that FIU units are being asked to review departmental continuity of operation plans. President Rosenberg referred to the infographic from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

President Rosenberg explained that nearly 500 seniors presented their projects as part of the University's College of Engineering and Computing Senior Design Showcase. He highlighted Worlds Ahead graduates, Linda Armstrong, Aditya Sundararajan, Bianca Maderal, and Ariel Huguet. He pointed out that as FIU's football team prepared to play in the Camellia Bowl in Montgomery, Alabama, a group of approximately 60 students participated in the Civil Rights Public History

Fellowship, a learning experience where they visited sites and museums of historic significance in Montgomery. President Rosenberg introduced a video that featured the student learning experience in Montgomery.

President Rosenberg explained that on December 17, 2019, the University broke ground on the International Center for Tropical Botany at the Kampong, an innovative collaboration between FIU and the National Tropical Botanical Garden. He indicated that the number of FIU new fully online students for academic year 2018-2019, increased 29 percent above the previous year. He pointed out that FIU's State of the World 2020 conference took place on January 9, 2020 and tackled some of the most pressing global issues. He reported that FIU's School of Communication + Journalism has partnered with the country's largest provider of Spanish-language content to create the Univision Students Training and Employment Program (STEP). He introduced a video that highlighted the partnership. President Rosenberg commented that on January 12, 2020, FIU participated in the 50th Three Kings Day Parade on Calle Ocho and that on January 20, 2020 the University participated in the 43rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade and Festivities in Liberty City.

President Rosenberg reported that FIU Distinguished Professor Madhavan Nair has been named a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors and that Professor Fatma G. Huffman is to be inducted as a Fellow of the American Society for Nutrition, the highest honor that the Society bestows. President Rosenberg indicated that Professor Kalai Mathee has been elected to a Fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology and that Dean of the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, Tomas Guilarte, is a recipient of the 2020 Metal Specialty Section Career Achievement Award. President Rosenberg pointed out that FIU Professor Allan Rosenbaum is the third person to ever be elected to a second term as president in the 81-year history of the 8,000 member American Society for Public Administration. President Rosenberg reported that Asst. Professor Zachary Danziger was awarded a \$1.6M grant from the National Institutes of Health to help modify current brain-computer interfaces to improve brain decoding algorithms before implanting.

President Rosenberg announced that Dr. Michael Cheng was appointed as the next dean for the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, indicating that Dean Cheng has been serving as the interim dean since December 15, 2017. President Rosenberg stated that Dimitris Pavlidis was awarded a \$4.2M grant from the Air Force to research vacuum nanoelectronics for advanced communication systems. President Rosenberg explained that the University is among the 21 U.S. doctoral institutions that produced the most Fulbright U.S. Scholars in 2019-2020, adding that FIU Professor Emeritus Emmanuel Roussakis has received his sixth Fulbright grant.

President Rosenberg reported that during the annual Panther Alumni Week, Trustee Gerald C. Grant, Jr. spoke to a class at the Honors College. President Rosenberg commented on an event earlier in the week where FIU hosted MITRE, stating that the University and MITRE, have entered into a strategic partnership that will involve joint efforts to enhance FIU student talent development and preparation in key areas driving 21st century innovation and job creation. President Rosenberg noted that over 1,200 students volunteer at SOBWWF® every year and that proceeds benefit the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

## **5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges**

Dr. Wheelan provided an overview of the requirements of each of the Principles of Accreditation and the role of the Board of the Trustees in the accreditation process. She described the 14 sections relating to the principles of accreditation and explained that two new principles have been added and that these pertain to (1) boards defining and regularly evaluating their responsibilities and expectations and (2) the institution providing information and guidance to help student borrowers understand how to manage their debt and repay their loans.

In terms of the reaffirmation process, Dr. Wheelan explained that the Compliance Certification is submitted approximately five (5) months in advance of an institution's scheduled reaffirmation and is a document completed by the institution that demonstrates its judgment of the extent of its compliance with each of the Core Requirements and Standards. She pointed out that the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee reviews Compliance Certifications to determine whether each institution is in compliance with all Core Requirements and Standards and that at the conclusion of the review, the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee will prepare a separate report for each institution, recording and explaining its preliminary findings about compliance. She indicated that said report is forwarded to the respective institution's On-Site Reaffirmation Committee, adding that the On-Site Reaffirmation Committee will conduct a focused evaluation at the campus to finalize issues of compliance with the Core Requirements and Standards, evaluate the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), and provide consultation regarding the issues addressed in the QEP. She commented that at the conclusion of its visit, the On-Site Reaffirmation Committee will finalize a written report of its findings noting areas of noncompliance. She added that the Committees on Compliance and Reports (C&R), standing committees of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, review reports prepared by reaffirmation committees and the institutional responses to those reports and that a C&R Committee's recommendation regarding an institution's reaffirmation of accreditation is forwarded to the Executive Council for review. She further stated that the Executive Council recommends action to the full Board of Trustees, which makes the final decision on reaffirmation and any monitoring activities that it may require of an institution. She explained that the full Board of Trustees convenes twice a year.

Dr. Wheelan provided an overview of Principles related to the role of university governing boards, namely, that governing boards: (1) ensure the regular review of the institution's mission; (2) ensure a clear and appropriate distinction between the policy-making function of the board and the responsibility of the administration and faculty to administer and implement policy; (3) select and regularly evaluate the institution's chief executive officer; (4) define and address potential conflict of interest for its members; (5) have appropriate and fair processes for the dismissal of a board member; (6) protect the institution from undue influence by external persons or bodies; and (7) define and regularly evaluate its responsibilities and expectations. She pointed out that if an institution's governing board does not retain sole legal authority and operating control in a multiple-level governance system, then the institution clearly defines the following areas within its governance structure: (a) institution's mission, (b) fiscal stability of the institution, and (c) institutional policy.

In response to Trustee Natasha Lowell, Dr. Wheelan explained that while a Trustee can serve as a board member of a university in which his/her child or grandchild is a student, this scenario would be defined as a potential conflict of interest that would preclude said Trustee from serving as that

board's chair.

## 6. Action Items – Consent Agenda

Chair Puig explained that the Consent Agenda was amended to include a new business item reviewed by the Finance and Facilities Committee that related to the University moving forward with the Torrey Pines transaction, notwithstanding the closing costs and revenue side developments as described during the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting.

Chair Puig indicated that the Audit and Compliance Committee recommended approval by the Board of action item AC2, that the Finance and Facilities Committee recommended approval by the Board of action items FF1-FF4, and that the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommended approval by the Board of action items AP1-AP6 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, December 5, 2019** - Approval of Minutes of the FIU Board of Trustees, Full Board meeting held on Thursday, December 5, 2019, at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms.
- **AC2. Office of Internal Audit Quality Assurance Review 2019** - Approve the independent assessor's report, Office of Internal Audit Quality Assurance Review 2019.
- **FF1. Approval of Purchase Order 198394, vendor: Oracle America, Inc. and Contract/Purchase Order #PUR-02866, vendor W.W. Grainger, Inc** - Pursuant to the Delegations of Authority from the Florida International University Board of Trustees (the BOT) to the University President, as reflected in the Resolution on the President's Powers and Duties approved by the BOT on March 4, 2019, (i) approve the University entering into the purchase order and contract as described in the Board materials and (ii) authorize the University President or his designee to execute, on behalf of the University, the aforementioned contract.
- **FF2. Investment Policy Amendment** - Adopt the revisions to the University's Investment Policy.
- **FF3. Amendment to the 2019-2020 Fixed Capital Outlay and Carryforward Budgets** - Approve an amendment to the 2019-20 Florida International University Fixed Capital Outlay and Carryforward Budgets in order to complete necessary Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning upgrades in the Owa Ehan building.
- **FF4. Torrey Pines** - Affirm the University moving forward with the Torrey Pines transaction notwithstanding the closing costs and revenue side developments.
- **AP1. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nominations** - Approve three (3) candidates for Tenure as a Condition of Employment as specified in the Board materials.

- **AP2. Proposed Amendments to Regulation FIU-108 Access to Student Education Records** - Approve the revisions to Regulation FIU-108 Access to Student Education Records, and delegate authority to the University President to approve any subsequent non-material amendments based on comments to the Regulation received from the Florida Board of Governors or as a result of the regulation-making process.
- **AP3. New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity** - Approve the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity (CIP 11.1003) new program proposal.
- **AP4. New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Arts in English Education** - Approve the Bachelor of Arts in English Education (CIP 13.1305) new program proposal.
- **AP5. New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Neuroscience** - Approve the Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Neuroscience (CIP 42.2706) new program proposal.
- **AP6. New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation and Recreational Therapy** - Approve the Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation and Recreational Therapy (CIP: 51.2399) new program proposal.
- **G1. Updated Exclusion Resolution and Designation of Key Management Personnel and Delegation of Authority** - Adopt a Resolution that updates the exclusion of the named members of the FIU Board of Trustees from the requirements for a personnel security clearance.

## 7. Action Item

### AC1. Performance Based Funding and Emerging Preeminence Metrics

#### A. Performance Based Funding and Emerging Preeminence Status – Data Integrity Certification

#### B. Audit of Performance Based Funding and Emerging Preeminence Metrics Data Integrity

Trustee Gerald C. Grant, Jr., Chair of the Audit and Compliance Committee, noted that the BOG requires the Board Chair and University President to jointly execute a Data Integrity Certification affirmatively certifying that the University maintains reliable systems as they relate to BOG data and reporting requirements. Additionally, he added that the University's Chief Audit Executive Trevor L. Williams conducted an audit of the University's processes completeness, accuracy, and timeliness. Trustee Grant pointed out that Mr. Williams issued an opinion stating that the system, in all material respects, continues to function in a reliable manner and made five recommendations to further reduce potential risks to data integrity that management agreed to implement.

In terms of the audit recommendations, Trustee Cesar L. Alvarez requested an implementation update for the next regularly scheduled Board meetings.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees:



1. Approve the Performance Based Funding and Emerging Preeminence Status – Data Integrity Certification to be signed by the Chair of the FIU Board of Trustees and the University President; and
2. Approve the Audit Report - Audit of the Performance Based Funding and Emerging Preeminence Metrics Data Integrity.

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

### **Audit and Compliance Committee Report**

Trustee Grant provided highlights from the Audit and Compliance Committee's meeting earlier in the day. He indicated that, in addition to the audit of the data integrity and processes utilized in the University's Performance Based Funding and Emerging Preeminence Metrics, Mr. Williams provided updates on recently completed audits that pertained to the University's accounts receivable process and FIU football attendance for the 2019 season. Trustee Grant pointed out that Chief Compliance and Privacy Officer, Ms. Jennifer LaPorta, reported on the establishment of the Global Risk and Foreign Influence Task Force. In terms of recruitment, Trustee Grant commented that the Associate Athletic Director of Compliance position has been filled and that the hiring of an Assistant Director of Compliance is in process.

Trustee Grant explained that he will be working with the Offices of Internal Audit, Compliance and Integrity, and General Counsel to finalize the Office Charter review process for Internal Audit and Compliance. He pointed out that as is mandated by the Committee's Charter, the Committee met with the Chief Audit Executive to discuss the audit process.

### **Finance and Facilities Committee Report**

Trustee Leonard Boord, Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee, provided highlights from the Committee's meeting earlier in the day. He pointed out that the Committee reviewed and approved a new business item relating to a request to relocate the Miami Beach Urban Studios to ground floor space in its current building, which is located at 1620 Washington Avenue and 1622 Washington Avenue, in Miami Beach, Florida. He explained that as follow-up from the Committee's December meeting, the Director of the CasaCuba program, Maria Carla Chicuen, provided a fundraising update.

Trustee Boord indicated that Senior Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer Kenneth A. Jessell reported on the close of the second quarter of FY 2019-20 in terms of operating revenues and expenses and provided the key drivers that played a role in the University's financial performance. Trustee Boord noted that total operating revenues were above estimates by \$12.8M or two percent and operating expenses are above estimates by (\$4.2)M or one percent, a net favorable variance of \$8.6M.

### **Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Report**

Trustee Alvarez, Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Chair, provided highlights from the Committee's meeting earlier in the day, namely, that all action items reviewed by the Committee were approved and that the Committee received an update on University rankings.

### **Governance Committee Report**

On behalf of the Board, Chair Puig thanked Dr. Wheelan. Chair Puig pointed out that Dr. Wheelan has provided the necessary framework to guide the Board's future discussions on the self-evaluation survey results.

### **9. New Business**

*No new business was raised.*

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

With no other business, Board Chair Claudia Puig adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Full Board on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 2:27 p.m.

*Trustee request:*

*In terms of the recommendations relating to the Audit of the Performance Based Funding and Emerging Preeminence Metrics Data Integrity, Trustee Cesar L. Alvarez requested an implementation update for the next regularly scheduled board meetings.*

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Claudia Puig  
*Chair*  
FIU Board of Trustees

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