



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FULL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 21, 2021**

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 12:58 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at the FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms and 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*; Cesar L. Alvarez; Jose J. Armas (*arrived after roll call*); Leonard Boord (*via Zoom*); Donna J. Hrinak; Natasha Lowell; Gene Prescott; Joerg Reinhold; Chanel T. Rowe; Marc D. Sarnoff; Carlos Trujillo (*Via Zoom; joined after roll call*); and Alexandra Valdes.

Board Chair Colson indicated that he would proceed to take the agenda out of order, specifically proceeding to the President's Report prior to the Foundation Report and action items.

4. President's Report

University President Mark B. Rosenberg shared the following statement: "On the other side of a landmark verdict in the Derek Chauvin case for our black community and so many others, there is a feeling of relief and vindication. Minnesota's Attorney General Keith Ellison noted after the verdict that we did not truly see justice served because justice would mean complete restoration, an impossibility when a life is lost, but what we saw was accountability, and accountability is the first step towards justice. FIU will continue in our work. We will continue our work toward systematic change and addressing racial injustice. We will work together at our University to root out injustice and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion on our campus and beyond. We are fundamentally committed to prosperity for our entire community and are very excited about the work we have ahead."

President Rosenberg explained that the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) mandated that all state universities have their staff undergo mental health training, adding that the state utilized a simulation software from a company called Kognito. He indicated that the groups required to complete the training include all 9-month and 12-month faculty, full-time administrative staff, employees, and other staff members. President Rosenberg reported on FIU's 96% completion rate, adding that 99% of full-time staff, 96% of full-time faculty, and 86% of adjuncts have completed the mandated training.

President Rosenberg presented a photo collage depicting students participating in the University's commencement caravans. He remarked that the four-year graduation rate has nearly doubled over the last decade, adding that the academic progress rate has increased from approximately 74% to over 90%. He mentioned that in 2008-09, the University was generating approximately \$90M in research expenditures, stating that currently, FIU generates over \$220M in research expenditures. President Rosenberg pointed out that annual science and engineering research expenditures have increased from approximately \$50M to \$190M. He reported that the University has received \$24.6M in National Institutes of Health (NIH) awards in the first half of FY2020-21, noting that said awards focus on health areas, including Alzheimer's, child mental health, cancer, and health disparities. He commented on \$1M in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants to support the University's work in the Everglades, \$1.2M from the Knight Foundation to promote student success, and an \$4M NIH grant focusing on gene deregulation in cortical dementia.

President Rosenberg remarked that the University's Ignite campaign has raised \$31M over the last 10 years, adding that year-to-date, \$1.3M has been raised with over 52% participation for the year. He commented on the \$750M capital campaign goal, stating that \$625 has been raised to-date. He mentioned recent gifts, specifically the \$10M gift from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in support of FIU's School of Computing and Information Sciences and the gift from the Maurice A. Ferré Foundation to establish the Maurice A. Ferré Institute for Civic Leadership at FIU. In terms of the University's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiative, President Rosenberg commented that FIU's Black Faculty Association is now fully formed and operating and is poised to play a critical role in helping the institution in its faculty recruitment efforts. He also mentioned the gift from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in support of the StartUP FIU food program to help entrepreneurs of color digitally transform their businesses and the grant from the Truist Foundation to help generate much greater awareness of financial literacy issues.

President Rosenberg commented on the University's role in water quality issues and on the new book published by FIU professor and physicist, Bernard S. Gerstman, on cancer research conducted by physicists that provides new information in the long-term battle against the disease. President Rosenberg indicated that FIU is among three universities receiving NSF funds to study climate change in the tropics. He remarked on Trimble's major gift to establish the Trimble Technology Lab at the Moss School of Construction. He stated that FIU student, Patricia Garcia, won the 2021 Venturebites College Pitch competition for a company that she created called College Thrifts, adding that Patricia, along with four (4) other FIU students were accepted to the Clinton Global Initiative University.

President Rosenberg remarked on the closing of the 440 Center in Washington D.C., adding that the FIU in D.C. office is preparing for the opening of its new location at 600 New Jersey Avenue. He provided an overview of FIU in D.C.'s accomplishments over the last five (5) years, specifically that FIU in D.C. has helped to secure \$65M in grants and \$78.8M in federal appropriations bills, coordinated 85 research advocacy delegations for faculty and staff, supported the experiences of over 408 interns, and hosted nearly 300 events.

President Rosenberg highlighted two (2) FIU students, David Berthold and Lismary Hernandez, who will be graduating in the April 24-25, 2021 commencement ceremonies. President Rosenberg

commented that Mr. Berthold is a graduate student researcher graduating with a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences and that, through his research, has contributed incredible insight on mitigating toxic algae blooms and has already published 27 peer-reviewed journal articles. President Rosenberg remarked that, because of her academic excellence, Ms. Hernandez is a member of five (5) national honor societies, including Phi Beta Kappa.

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks *(Continued...)*

Board Chair Colson indicated that Ms. Claudia Puig concluded her service on the Board in March, adding that Ms. Puig served as a Trustee for over 18 years and that during that time, completed two terms as Chair of the Board. He remarked that Ms. Puig was succeeded by Trustee Carlos Trujillo, who was appointed by Governor DeSantis for a five-year term that began March 26, 2021. Board Chair Colson welcomed and introduced Trustee Trujillo. Trustee Trujillo mentioned that he looked forward to serving on the Board and to continuing the tradition of advocating for FIU.

Board Chair Colson referred to the 2021 Board of Trustees calendar of agenda items, which highlights the work of the Board and related BOG due dates. He advised that FIU is now scheduled to host the BOG on August 31 and September 1, 2021. President Rosenberg joined Board Chair Colson for a plaque presentation in recognition of Trustee Alexandra Valdes' service on the Board, which concludes on May 9, 2021. Trustee Valdes conveyed her gratitude to the Board and the University leadership.

2. Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

3. Foundation Report

FIU Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors Vice Chair Adalio Sanchez reported that the Next Horizon Campaign has, as of April 9, 2021, raised \$625M, or 83%, of its \$750M goal. He commented on philanthropic fundraising, stating that, as of February 28, 2021, \$46.6M has been raised towards the \$79M goal. He indicated that, as of April 16, 2021, \$56.8M has been raised. He remarked on the \$34.6M cash target for the year, pointing out that \$23M in cash was received by the eight (8) months ended February 28, 2021, stating that through March 31, 2021, \$26M had been received.

In terms of operating expenses, Foundation Board Vice Chair Sanchez commented on underspending, which is consistent with reduced travel and related expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He described major areas of impact, namely the \$10M gift from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the \$5.5M commitment from the Maurice A. Ferré Foundation, and the \$5.63M grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Foundation Board Vice Chair Sanchez reported that as of February 28, 2021, the Foundation's total investment portfolio stands at approximately \$347M and that the Total Managed Assets returned 17.94%.

5. Action Items – Consent Agenda

Board Chair Colson delineated the items contained within the Consent Agenda, specifically the Minutes of the Board's February 23, 2021 meeting, the Educational Plant Survey, and the updated Exclusion Resolution.

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

- **BT1. Minutes, February 23, 2021** - Approval of Minutes of the FIU Board of Trustees, Full Board meeting held on February 23, 2021.
- **SP1. Educational Plant Survey, Fiscal Year 2020-2021** - Approve the Educational Plant Survey, Fiscal Year 2020-2021.
- **G1. Updated Exclusion Resolution** - 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.

6. Action Items

SP2. Florida International University Annual Accountability Plan, 2021

Board Vice Chair Roger Tovar, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, stated that the Committee engaged in a thorough review of the revised 2021 Accountability Plan, adding that the Committee recommended the item, as amended, for Board approval.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve Florida International University's Annual Accountability Plan, as amended, and delegate authority to the University President to perform finish editing as needed and to amend consistent with comments received from the Board of Governors.

G2. President's Management Review

Board Chair Colson explained that the Governance Committee met to undertake the assessment of President Rosenberg's accomplishments for the 2019-20 academic year relative to the Board-approved goals and his overall performance. On behalf of the Committee, Board Chair Colson presented the recommended performance rating for Board consideration.

A motion was made and unanimously passed by the FIU Board of Trustees granting a "superior" performance rating to President Mark B. Rosenberg for his leadership of Florida International University during the 2019-20 academic year.

G3. University and President's Performance Goals, 2021-22 Academic Year

Board Chair Colson indicated that President Rosenberg submitted a list of goals to be considered for his 2021-22 management review. He added that said goals were taken directly from the University's Accountability Plan.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees adopt the University and President's Performance Goals for the 2021-22 academic year as presented to the Governance Committee.

7. Status Reports, Board Committees

Strategic Planning Committee Report

Board Vice Chair Tovar provided highlights from the Committee's meeting earlier in the day. He indicated that, in addition to engaging in a thorough review of the Educational Plant Survey and the 2021 Accountability Plan, the Committee also received a repopulation update from President Rosenberg.

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 reported that the Committee reviewed and ratified the independent contractor agreement with the vendor Logistics Management Group, adding that the agreement provides for a wide array of event management services and for the sourcing of necessary items for the various events organized by the Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival presented by Capital One (SOBEWFF®), which will take place May 20-23, 2021. Trustee Boord indicated that the estimated cost is just under \$2M, explaining that ticket sales and sponsorship revenue, or unrestricted auxiliary funds, are the funding sources. He added that most expenses are pass-through and reimbursed by the University once approved by festival staff, incurred, and invoiced by the vendor.

External Relations Committee Report

Trustee Marc D. Sarnoff, Chair of the External Relations Committee, provided highlights from the Committee's meeting earlier in the day. He remarked that Senior Vice President, External Relations, Strategic Communications and Marketing, Sandra B. Gonzalez-Levy provided a marketing update. He commented that over the weekend, FIU will graduate 5,600 students at the first in-person, physically distanced outdoor commencement since the University repopulated, adding that class of 2020 graduates who did not have the opportunity to participate in an in-person graduation ceremony, are able to participate in the upcoming ceremonies.

Governance Committee Report

Board Chair Colson explained that he and President Rosenberg discussed the President's Incentive Goals outcomes for 2019-20 and the Governance Committee's review of the Incentive Goals to be proposed for 2021-22 and have agreed to postpone any related Committee action on these matters until the June meeting of the Governance Committee.

8. New Business

Board Chair Colson recognized the University's leadership and staff.

Trustee Cesar L. Alvarez commended the work that culminated in the gift from the Maurice A. Ferré Foundation.

President Rosenberg introduced a video, which featured recent graduate Melinda Spitzer. In the video, Ms. Spitzer commented that despite setbacks and slow progress towards her degree due to a spinal disease, she will celebrate her Spring 2020 graduation at the upcoming in-person commencement ceremonies.

9. 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 Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 1:50 p.m.

Dean C. Colson
Chair
FIU Board of Trustees

Mark B. Rosenberg
Corporate Secretary
FIU Board of Trustees