



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FULL BOARD MEETING
JULY 23, 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 2:13 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 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*; Cesar L. Alvarez; Jose J. Armas; Leonard Boord; Gerald C. Grant, Jr.; Donna J. Hrinak; Natasha Lowell; Gene Prescott; Claudia Puig; Joerg Reinhold; Marc D. Sarnoff; and Alexandra Valdes.

Board Chair Colson welcomed Trustees and University administrators participating via the virtual environment and explained that the University community and general public were accessing the meeting via the FIU webcast.

On behalf of the FIU Board of Trustees, Chair Colson extended his gratitude to Trustee Claudia Puig for her leadership and dedication to the Board, to the University, and to the students. Chair Colson pointed out that the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) confirmed the reappointment of Dr. Mark B. Rosenberg as President of FIU.

2. Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

3. President's Report

President Rosenberg pointed out that the University continues to closely monitor the current COVID-19 situation in Miami Dade County as FIU plans for the start of the fall semester. He presented an analysis of the overall proportion of positive tests results in Miami-Dade County, beginning March 20, 2020 through July 18, 2020 and commented that the percentage of tests that are positive and the number of cases is higher leading to very stressed situations in hospitals. He explained that said data is at the forefront as decisions are made as to who will return to campus, at what time, and how the University will ensure that students have all the support they need to remain successful. Chair Colson highlighted the commitment to maintain frequent communication with the Office of the Governor of Florida and with the Florida Board of Governors, pointing out that repopulation efforts will proceed in a manner that are in the best interest of the University

community. President Rosenberg indicated that on June 26, 2020 the Department of Emergency Management coordinated a hybrid tabletop exercise that examined the many complexities of a weather event during a pandemic.

President Rosenberg provided an update on the work of the core advisory group, comprised of El pagnier Hudson, Dr. Valerie Patterson, and Delrish Moss, that forms part of the University's Equity Action Initiative. He remarked that the group was formed to review and recommend initiatives that will enhance equality, dignity, inclusion and belonging, noting that the group has been meeting with stakeholders as they develop their recommendations and that a final report is expected at the end of July.

President Rosenberg commented that virtual orientations have been taking place since April with over 6,000 students attending to-date and that over 2,000 students are expected to attend prior to the start of the fall semester. He remarked that Panther Camp, the University's optional extended orientation program that is student-led and facilitated and typically takes place over three days and two nights in Lake Placid, FL, also transitioned to a virtual platform. He added that FIU's Panther Camp was the first online extended orientation program to take place in the country. President Rosenberg commented on the graduation of the Urban Potential Laboratories (UP Labs) cohort, stating that the program provides middle skills level training that can lead to high-quality jobs. He indicated that students participated in PantherHacks, a hackathon centered around finding solutions to help navigate through the global pandemic and that the students worked on their projects for 30 hours straight and came up with projects using technology such as Google Cloud, Python and JavaScript. He presented a video clip featuring one such PantherHacks project, Data Dogs.

President Rosenberg explained that the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has deferred to individual conferences to make decisions regarding fall sports in 2020 due to COVID-19. He commended student-athlete academic success, reporting that FIU student-athletes posted the highest term grade point average (GPA) in the department's history, earning a 3.53 GPA for the spring, adding that two FIU programs top Conference USA in team GPA, as men's soccer and women's swimming and diving led the league for their respective sports. President Rosenberg stated that for the second consecutive year, FIU posted a record-high 66 student-athletes with a 4.0 or higher for the term, while posting a conference-high 282 members on the C-USA honor roll. He added that the FIU women's track program led the athletic department with 33 members on the honor roll list and that the football program placed second overall at FIU with 30 members. In terms of the NCAA's annual Academic Progress Rate (APR), he pointed out that FIU had all its athletic programs post above the required multi-year score of 930 with women's golf and men's soccer registering a perfect multi-year score of 1,000, ranking in the top 10 percent of their respective sports. President Rosenberg further stated that this marked the sixth-straight year women's golf was recognized for its academic success.

President Rosenberg remarked on the August 2, 2020 virtual commencement. He commented on new faculty hires, specifically highlighting new engineering faculty members, Dr. Dimitris Pavlidis and Dr. Daniela Radu who will join FIU with \$5.5M in combined research awards. He pointed out that the Florida Legislature provided \$8,266,104 this year toward the design and construction of phase 1 of FIU's engineering building, bringing the total state funding to \$38.9M. He expressed his

gratitude to the legislature and to the Governor of the State of Florida for their support of the facility, adding that with FIU matching funds of \$15M, the facility will have a total value of over \$50M. He indicated that FIU is currently advertising for an Architect/Engineer (A/E) to design the building over the next year and that once the A/E selection is complete, the competitive selection for a Construction Manager will begin. He pointed out that design will be accelerated with groundbreaking taking place within a year and that the new engineering building seeks to focus on bio-medical engineering integrating the multiple engineering and health science disciplines that have created this new field of science and research. President Rosenberg commented on University rankings.

In response to Trustee Jose J. Armas, President Rosenberg explained that the University expects to make a decision on the repopulating of campuses at least two to three weeks prior to the start of the fall semester and that, to the extent possible, the decision-making process will be part of a coordinated effort with the BOG and other State University System institutions.

4. Action Items

2.1 Approval of Execution of Student Insurance Documents for Fiscal Year 2019-20

Trustee Leonard Boord, Finance and Facilities Committee Chair, indicated that the Committee met earlier and recommended Board approval of the execution of the student insurance documents for fiscal year 2019-20 as specified in the Board materials.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the Board of Trustees: (1) approves the execution of the fiscal year 2019-20 insurance documents for students as specified in the Board materials; and (2) delegates authority to the University President to execute the Student Insurance Documents and any documents related thereto necessary to effectuate the student insurance purchase.

FF1. Approval of Execution of Student Insurance Documents for Fiscal Year 2020-21

Trustee Boord indicated that the Committee recommended Board approval of the execution of the student insurance documents for fiscal year 2020-21 as specified in the Board materials.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the Board of Trustees: (1) approves the execution of the fiscal year 2020-21 insurance documents for students as specified in the Board materials; and (2) delegates authority to the University President to execute the Student Insurance Documents and any documents related thereto necessary to effectuate the student insurance purchase.

G1. Amendments to the Bylaws of the Florida International University Board of Trustees

Board Chair Colson noted that the Governance Committee met earlier and recommended Board approval of the proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the FIU Board of Trustees.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve amendments to the Bylaws of the Florida International University Board of Trustees.

5. New Business

No new business was raised.

6. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Colson explained that he, at the President's invitation, recently spoke to members of the President's executive team about his priorities as Board Chair. Chair Colson identified as a priority the University's goal to reach recognition as a Top-50 public university and stressed the need for continued improvement of graduation and retention rates and funding to improve student-faculty ratios. He also highlighted the need to focus on areas where the University can achieve a great level of success and to increase marketing efforts. Chair Colson identified groundbreaking for major buildings and projects within the next year, greater involvement with the leadership in Tallahassee and ramped up fundraising efforts/naming of colleges and buildings. He mentioned that there should be a deepened relationship with the Board of Governors. Chair Colson also stressed maintaining the same degree of access and diversity, ensuring that FIU students have an understanding of history and civics upon graduation, and ensuring an open dialogue on issues relating to racial injustice.

Trustee Board pointed out that 62 million Americans are working remotely and delivering 60% of the country's GDP, commenting on the unique opportunities the current environment provides as the University strives to reach recognition as a Top-50 public university.

With no other business, Board Chair Dean C. Colson adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Full Board on Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 2:58 p.m.

Dean C. Colson
Chair
FIU Board of Trustees

Mark B. Rosenberg
Corporate Secretary
FIU Board of Trustees