



Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee
September 22, 2022
FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

The Florida International University Board of Trustees' Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Natasha Lowell on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 10:38 a.m.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee members and verified a quorum. Present were Trustees Natasha Lowell, *Committee Chair*; Cesar L. Alvarez; Jose J. Armas, *Health Affairs Liaison*; Deanne Butchey; Dean C. Colson, *Board Chair*; Cristhofer E. Lugo; Chanel T. Rowe; and Roger Tovar, *Board Vice Chair and Athletics Liaison*.

Trustee Marc D. Sarnoff was excused.

Trustees Carlos A. Duart and Gene Prescott and Interim University President Kenneth A. Jessell were also in attendance.

Committee Chair Lowell welcomed all Trustees and members of the University administration. She also welcomed the University community and general public accessing the meeting via the University's webcast. She introduced and welcomed Faculty Senate Chair and faculty Trustee Deanne Butchey as a member of the Committee. Committee Chair Lowell announced that the discussion item relating to China updates has been deferred to a future Committee meeting.

Interim Provost and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar commented that that the University will be hosting a celebration of life in honor of Founding Dean of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, John F. Stack, Jr. She announced the appointment of Dr. Shlomi Dinar as Interim Dean of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs. She also announced that Interim Dean and Professor of Surgery Dr. Juan C. Cendan was appointed Senior Vice-President for Health Affairs and Dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. Interim Provost Bejar commented that Dean of Libraries, Dr. Anne Prestamo, retired after nine years of service to the FIU community. She noted that Zhaohui Jennifer Fu has been appointed as Interim Dean of FIU Libraries.

Interim Provost Bejar indicated that FIU received a five-year National Institutes of Health (NIH) Grant Award of \$19.4M for the Research Center in a Minority Institution at FIU (FIU-RCMI). She added that FIU-RCMI's Principal Investigator is Eric Wagner, Ph.D., Director of the Community Based Research Institute, and Professor in the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social

Work. She stated that the FIU-RCMI is the largest NIH Award in the history of FIU and is funded through the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Interim Provost Bejar mentioned that the FIU-RCMI is dedicated to world class, community-partnered health disparities research and training and focuses on basic biomedical research, behavioral research and population science, and clinical/health services research.

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Lowell asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on June 16, 2022. Hearing none, a motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on June 16, 2022.

3. Action Items

AP1. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nominations

Committee Chair Lowell explained that Tenure as a Condition of Employment (TACOE) is proposed for five (5) candidates. She explained that to be considered for TACOE, newly hired faculty must qualify for tenure at FIU based on their caliber of work and/or tenure status at their previous institution.

Interim Provost Bejar presented the TACOE nominations for Committee review. She pointed out that TACOE is reserved for individuals who have achieved highly prestigious academic careers prior to becoming FIU faculty. She indicated that the TACOE candidates have either received, or are eligible for, tenure at their prior institutions and explained that, at the time of hire, the faculty candidate understands that the tenure and rank appointment will be granted upon an expedited review of the candidate's materials by the department, the college, the Provost, the President, and the FIU Board of Trustees. Interim Provost Bejar indicated that the TACOE candidates have been vetted and briefly commented on each candidate.

Board Vice Chair Roger Tovar requested that, moving forward, TACOE nominees be invited to the Board of Trustees meeting where their nomination will be reviewed or that their pictures be included as part of the agenda materials or presentation.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the Florida International University Board of Trustees the approval of five (5) candidates for Tenure as a Condition of Employment as specified in the Board materials.

AP2. Florida Educational Equity Act Report, 2022 reporting year

Emmanuele Bowles, Assistant Vice Provost, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, presented the 2022 Florida Educational Equity Act Report for Committee review. She explained that the 10-part report reviews the academic year (AY) beginning July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 with feedback from the Chief Diversity Officer of the Florida Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees based on the 2021 report. She noted that the 2022 report includes enhancements pertaining to goals and implementation plans.

Assistant Vice Provost Bowles commented on increased enrollment of full-time first-time-in-college (FTIC) students and increased graduation rates of FTICs across gender groups. She pointed out that the one-year retention rate for FTIC students is 91%. She remarked on the increase in master and doctoral degrees awarded to female students. Assistant Vice Provost Bowles mentioned the increase in first professional degrees conferred to Black and Asian students. She explained that of the 12 required reporting elements for the athletics program, FIU is equitable in 10 of the 12 categories. She added that Athletics has prioritized making improvements to the women's softball facilities. She commented on the increases to the number of female, Asian, and Hispanic tenured faculty from the previous AY. She remarked that areas for improvement in the 2021 report pertained to increasing female faculty and minority tenured faculty representation. She noted increases in the number of female and Black tenure-track faculty for AY 2022.

Assistant Vice Provost Bowles commented on the areas for improvement, specifically the decrease in the enrollment of Florida State College System transfers, number of doctoral degrees awarded to underrepresented students, gap in academic merit scholarships awarded to Black or African American students, gap in female student athlete participation and differences in men's baseball and women's softball facilities, and the need to increase female and minority tenured faculty representation.

Board Chair Dean C. Colson commented on the need to increase the diversity of promotion and tenure committees. In response to Committee Chair Lowell, Assistant Vice Provost Bowles indicated that the annual equity reports will track progress made towards areas for improvement. In response to Trustee Chanel T. Rowe, Interim Provost Bejar stated that she will schedule a follow-up meeting with Trustee Rowe to review the data related to the distribution of scholarship funds among ethnic groups.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the Florida International University Board of Trustees approve the Florida Educational Equity Act Report for the 2022 reporting year.

AP3. Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Annual Report

Heather Russell, Vice Provost for Faculty Leadership and Success, presented the Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability annual report for Committee review. She indicated that each year, the Board of Trustees is required to review the University's efforts towards making textbooks more affordable for students. She pointed out that the annual reporting includes the University's established practices in terms of compliance requirements by the state as well as reporting on the efficacy of new and innovative initiatives. She commented that faculty continue to make cost-conscious decisions across undergraduate and graduate courses in terms of their textbook adoptions and other instruction materials.

Vice Provost Russell pointed out that in more than 70% of course sections, students pay less than \$20 per credit with close to 50% of course sections having no textbook costs. She indicated that the University was very close to meeting the legislative posting requirement of 95% of adopted course and instructional materials on record by the legal deadline of 45 days prior to the first day of class for each semester and reported any late adoption activity after said deadline. Vice Provost Russell

stated that FIU achieved 93% for the current year. She remarked on convening textbook adoption liaisons in the high-performing colleges to share best practices with their peers, the continuation of messaging to faculty, and offering instruction and support to deans.

Vice Provost Russell commented on the Panther Book Pack Pilot Program. She noted that in partnership with Barnes & Noble, students are offered an inclusive program to cost-effectively rent required textbooks and instructional materials for a cost of \$20 flat rate per undergraduate credit. She stated that early and on-time access to course materials helps to ensure that students can successfully meet course requirements. She indicated that students who do not wish to participate in said program can use the one-click opt-out function each semester. Vice Provost Russell mentioned that for fall 2021 and spring 2022, approximately 50% of eligible students participated with a combined savings of \$3.3M and \$2.9M, respectively. She remarked on feedback from students that participated in the program, specifically that 81% of students reported that they liked the convenience, 77% agreed that it saved them time from sourcing materials, 68% agreed that it helped them be better prepared, and 80% said that they are likely to recommend the program to fellow students. Vice Provost Russell acknowledged Nicholas (Nick) Agnone, regional manager for Barnes & Noble.

Vice Provost Russell commented that FIU online, in partnership with FIU libraries and the Center for the Advancement of Teaching, acknowledge faculty who use low- or no-cost course materials at \$20 or less per credit hour. She added that qualifying courses earn the Affordability Counts medallion. She noted that to-date, 2,515 courses taught by 1,477 faculty across participating State University System institutions earned the Affordability Counts medallion.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the Florida International University Board of Trustees approval of the Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Annual Report.

AP4. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-1103 Textbook Affordability

Vice Provost Russell presented the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-1103 Textbook Affordability for Committee review. She indicated that Florida Board of Governors Regulation 8.003 was revised to incorporate amendments to Florida statutes approved during the 2022 legislative session. She stated that Regulation FIU-1103 is being updated to comply with Florida Board of Governors Regulation 8.003. She explained that a provision is being added for the University to maintain a public database with information on required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials that is searchable and downloadable. Vice Provost Russell added that where applicable, the database must also include general education courses syllabi. She stated that the information contained in the database must remain posted for at least five academic years, starting with the Fall 2022 term. She pointed out that effective July 1, 2022, FIU's TIM Explorer has been available to the public to search and download the adoptions of any course section at FIU as of Fall 2022, including the syllabi for core curriculum courses.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the Florida International University Board of Trustees approval of the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-1103 Textbook Affordability 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 and as a result of the regulation-making process.

AP5. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-2501 Student Conduct and Honor Code

Interim Provost Bejar presented the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-2501 Student Conduct and Honor Code for Committee review. She explained that in April 2019, the State University System of Florida and the twelve university presidents adopted the State University System of Florida Statement of Free Expression. She indicated that in its Civil Discourse Report of 2022, the Florida Board of Governors included several recommendations. She noted that one of the recommendations is to incorporate the University's adoption of the State University System of Florida's Statement of Free Expression into critical documents, including the University's Accountability Plan, which was achieved earlier in the year, and the FIU Student Conduct and Honor Code.

In response to Trustee Cesar L. Alvarez, Interim Provost Bejar stated that the University's implementation plan, as it relates to the Florida Board of Governors recommendations, outlines the actions that are taking place, the information that is being disseminated, and the educational opportunities that are afforded to students, faculty, and staff to reaffirm that intellectual diversity, freedom of expression and the ability to engage in civil discourse are critically important to the academy.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the Florida International University Board of Trustees approval of the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-2501 Student Conduct and Honor Code, 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 and as a result of the regulation-making process.

AP6. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-2502 Children's Creative Learning Center at FIU

Interim Provost Bejar presented the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-2502 Children's Creative Learning Center at FIU for Committee review. She noted that the regulation is being amended to increase the monthly tuition rates of the Children's Creative Learning Center at FIU (CCLC), which is a State Educational Research Center for Child Development (ERCCD) and a Cognia Accredited Early Learning School. Interim Provost Bejar added that the CCLC is a University auxiliary and a department within the Division of Academic and Student Affairs. She noted that the CCLC provides a preschool to Kindergarten educational program for children ages 2 ½ - 5 of FIU students, faculty, and staff as well as alumni and the local community. She stated that the CCLC offers an opportunity for interested University schools or departments to conduct educational research programs and establish internships.

Interim Provost Bejar commented that the requirements for CCLC teaching staff exceed the minimum established by the Florida Department of Children and Families for licensed Centers. She noted that each CCLC teacher is required to have a bachelor's degree. She indicated that the CCLC's revenue sources are lower than market tuition rates of peer community centers. Interim Provost Bejar pointed out that the current facility is limited to four classrooms with one additional classroom housed in the Graham Center building. She added that the limited size of the building creates an enrollment challenge and once registration has been completed for the school session, the CCLC still has a waiting list for children to join the program.

Interim Provost Bejar commented that additional revenues would allow for teacher salaries to minimally align with the public school system and the increase in tuition revenue would provide an opportunity to expand enrollment and growth. Interim Provost Bejar presented a benchmark comparison. She noted that despite the tuition increase, the CCLC will remain below market rates of peer accredited benchmarks. She announced that the CCLC received a four-year \$1.5M grant that will cover tuition for the children of enrolled students. She remarked that the tuition proposal is spread across the next five (5) years and discussions have already occurred with existing families.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the Florida International University Board of Trustees approval of the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-2502 Children's Creative Learning Center at FIU 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 and as a result of the regulation-making process.

AP7. Program Termination: Bachelor of Arts in French and Francophone Studies

Interim Provost Bejar presented the program termination for the Bachelor of Arts in French and Francophone Studies for Committee review. She pointed out that the faculty in the Department of Modern Languages seek to close the Bachelor of Arts in French and Francophone Studies and to replace it with the French and Francophone Studies major within the newly implemented BA in Global Languages, Cultures, and Literatures degree. She explained that the request to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in French and Francophone Studies represents streamlined and improved academic offerings at the University. She indicated that the new degree would allow students to pursue dual-language majors in languages including Chinese, French, German, Haitian Creole, Italian, Japanese, Spanish, and Portuguese.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the Florida International University Board of Trustees termination of the Bachelor of Arts in French and Francophone Studies (CIP 16.0901).

AP8. Program Termination: Bachelor of Arts in Portuguese

Interim Provost Bejar presented the Program Termination for the Bachelor of Arts in Portuguese for Committee review. She explained that the faculty in the Department of Modern Languages seek to close the Bachelor of Arts in Portuguese and to replace it with the Portuguese and Lusophone Studies major within the newly implemented BA in Global Languages, Cultures, and Literatures degree.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the Florida International University Board of Trustees termination of the Bachelor of Arts in Portuguese (CIP 16.0904).

AP9. New Program Proposal: Master of Science in Psychological Sciences in Education

AP10. New Program Proposal: Ph.D. in Psychological Sciences in Education

Interim Provost Bejar presented the new program proposals for the Master of Science and Ph.D. in Psychological Sciences in Education for Committee review. She explained that each degree will offer two majors, School Psychological Sciences and Research Methodology. She indicated that the Ph.D. degree requires a minimum of 75 credits beyond the baccalaureate and combines the master's with doctoral studies so that students seamlessly earn the M.S. degree en route to the Ph.D. degree. She commented that because this is a combined graduate degree pathway, students are admitted only and directly into the doctoral level program. Interim Provost Bejar added that the Ph.D. is considered the terminal degree and the M.S. program is needed as a potential off-ramp for students who are unsuccessful in reaching doctoral candidate status in the Ph.D. program. She stated that the new programs will be funded by reassignment of faculty and realignment of work effort. She mentioned that the reallocation of existing doctoral graduate assistantships will support students in year one. She added that by year five, additional sponsored research funding will support the growth in program enrollment.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the Florida International University Board of Trustees approval of the Master of Science in Psychological Sciences in Education (CIP:42.2799) new program proposal.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the Florida International University Board of Trustees approval of the Ph.D. in Psychological Sciences in Education (CIP: 42.2799) new program proposal.

AP11. Initial Application for Specialized Admissions Status

Interim Provost Bejar presented the initial application for Specialized Admissions Status for Committee review. She pointed out that the 16 degree programs presented for Board of Trustees approval were previously approved by the Board of Trustees and Florida Board of Governors, as what was formally known as limited access. She indicated that changes to Florida Board of Governors Regulation 8.013, now entitled Specialized Admissions, requires submission of Initial Specialized Admissions Applications. She added that Specialized Admissions status allows an institution to establish additional admission criteria for undergraduate degree programs. Interim Provost Bejar explained that said criteria are in addition to the criteria needed for admittance to the institution. She remarked that approval criteria are based on documentation of discipline-specific accreditation criteria. She mentioned that the 16 degree programs being considered have undergone a careful re-examination of their admission criteria and it has been determined that these criteria are required going forward. She commented that Florida Board of Governors Regulation requires that a "Reaffirmation of Specialized Admission Status," be conducted by the Board of Trustees and Florida Board of Governors every four to five years, depending on the criteria required, limited resources or minimal skills.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the Florida International University Board of Trustees approval of the following baccalaureate degree programs for Specialized Admissions Status:

- 09.0702 - BS in Digital Communication and Media
 - 09.0900 - BS in Public Relations, Advertising and Applied Communication
 - 44.0701 - BS in Social Work
 - 50.0501 - BA and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre
 - 50.0702 - Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art
 - 50.0901 - Bachelor of Music and BA in Music
 - 51.3101 - BS in Dietetics and Nutrition
 - 51.3801 - BS in Nursing
 - 52.0301 - Bachelor of Accounting
- BBA Degrees in:**
- 52.0201 - Management
 - 52.0801 - Finance
 - 52.1001 - Human Resource Management
 - 52.1101 - International Business
 - 52.1201 - Information Systems
 - 52.1401 - Marketing
 - 52.1501 - Real Estate

AP12. 2022-2023 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposal

Interim Provost Bejar pointed out that on September 6, 2022, the Board of Trustees approved four LINE proposals with three (3) community health partners. She added that the Florida Board of Governors approved FIU's requests at its September 14, 2022 meeting and is now accepting requests for the \$400,000 left of the \$6M fund. She presented the 2022-2023 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposal for Committee review. She commented on the proposal for \$400,000 with the Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County and Jackson Health System. Interim Provost Bejar added that said funds will facilitate identifying qualified nursing students who are interested in working at Jackson Health System facilities and would enhance retention of said Jackson CARE Scholars upon graduation.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend Florida International University Board of Trustees approval of the 2022-2023 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposal:

- Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County and Jackson Health System, \$ 400,000

4. Discussion Items

4.1 Student Government Updates

Trustee Cristhofer E. Lugo, Student Government Association (SGA) President, commented on the partnership with the Green Campus Initiative, an Honors College student organization, which advocates for the reduction of single plastic use. He commented on SGA's work with Chartwells and the Office of Business Services to implement the Swipe Out of Hunger Initiative, which will allow students with meal plans to donate unused meal swipes to students without access to meal plans. Trustee Lugo commented on the University's 50th anniversary celebration and invited the FIU community to include messages in the time capsule that is to be opened at FIU's 100th anniversary. He remarked on the collaboration with Athletics to boost student engagement at all student athletic events.

4.2 Faculty Senate Updates

Trustee Deanne Butchey, Faculty Senate Chair, also commented on FIU's 50th anniversary celebration. She mentioned that the Faculty Senate has met twice during the current semester. She commented on the campus safety discussion at the Senate's September meeting. She indicated that the Faculty Senate is paying close attention to Florida Board of Governors Regulation 10.003, which is being designed to address the legislative requirement of post-tenure review.

5. Academic Affairs Regular Reports

There were no questions from the Committee members in terms of the Academic Affairs regular reports included as part of the agenda materials.

6. New Business

No new business was raised.

7. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Committee Chair Natasha Lowell adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee on Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 12:11 p.m.