



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC POLICY AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2020**

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 Cesar L. Alvarez on June 16, 2020 at 11:25 a.m. at the FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Parking Garage 5 (PG5) Market Station, room 155 and via Zoom.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee members and verified a quorum. Present were Trustees Cesar L. Alvarez, *Chair*; Natasha Lowell, *Vice Chair*; Board Vice Chair Jose J. Armas (*joined late, via Zoom*); Dean C. Colson; Donna J. Hrinak (*via Zoom*); Joerg Reinhold; Marc D. Sarnoff; and Alexandra Valdes.

Board Chair Claudia Puig and Trustees Leonard Boord, Gerald C. Grant, Jr., Gene Prescott, and Roger Tovar, and University President Mark B. Rosenberg were also in attendance.

Committee Chair Alvarez welcomed Trustees and the University community. He also welcomed Trustees Donna J. Hrinak and Alexandra Valdes as new Committee members.

In response to a request from Board Chair Claudia Puig, Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton referred Trustees to the materials relating to an overview of University advising, namely, the current advising system, advisor training, development, and expectations, advising caseload management and monitoring, advising tools, and the future of advising. In terms of the impact of advising at FIU, he pointed out that the University decreased the average hours to complete a degree and that this was the most improvement in the State University System and also had a positive impact on the Performance Based Funding outcome for the average cost to degree. He further commented that the University has consistently increased the four-year graduation rate, has increased the Academic Progress Rate, and has increased the number of students who are graduating without excess hours.

Provost Furton announced that FIU was ranked among the top three universities in the U.S. in three categories by the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings for its impact on the community, based on United Nations criteria. He further commented that FIU also ranked among the top 50 institutions in the world in four categories.

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Alvarez asked for questions or comments from the Committee members in terms of the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on Wednesday, February 26, 2020. The Minutes were accepted as written without further comment.

3. Action Items

AP1. Tenure Nominations

Committee Chair Alvarez explained that 25 candidates were nominated for tenure, stating that the nominees selected to receive tenure have demonstrated excellence in scholarly and academic achievement. Provost Furton provided an overview of the University's tenure process and commented that in the aggregate over the past six years, the candidates have received over \$50M in funding, have been published over 644 times, and hold 10 patents.

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 Tenure Nominations as specified in the Board materials.

AP2. New Program Proposal: Master of Business Administration in Business Analytics (CIP 52.1301)

Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar presented the Master of Business Administration in Business Analytics new program proposal for Committee review. She explained that the proposed MBA in Business Analytics focuses on developing the essential skills required to pursue careers in big data, or as quantitative analysts. She indicated that students pursuing the 45-credit degree program will gain the broad overview offered in MBA programs as well as the ability to specialize in the application of statistical methods, techniques, and tools to large data sets proliferating across organizations, in an effort to address persistent and evolving business problems. Sr. VP Bejar pointed out that business analytics is relevant to a broad spectrum of industries from healthcare and financial services, to manufacturing and tourism related sectors.

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 Business Administration in Business Analytics (CIP 52.1301) new program proposal.

AP3. New Program Proposal: Master of Science in Cognitive Neuroscience (CIP: 42.2706)

AP4. New Program Proposal: Ph.D. in Cognitive Neuroscience (CIP: 42.2706)

Sr. VP Bejar presented the new program proposals pertaining to the Master of Science in Cognitive Neuroscience and Ph.D. in Cognitive Neuroscience for Committee review. She explained that the proposal will move an existing Ph.D. Cognitive Neuroscience major in Psychology to a stand-alone 75-credit degree under a new STEM CIP code. She indicated that cognitive neuroscience is a fast-growing field and that enhanced understanding of basic neurobiological principles that govern behavior can enrich basic research programs in a number of disciplines. She further commented that there is enormous potential for the application of neuroscience to the clinical, medical and educational fields and that cognitive neuroscience research informs clinical psychological therapeutics, pharmaceutical development, medical interventions, and educational practice.

Sr. VP Bejar pointed out that, additionally, this proposal will move an existing M.S. Cognitive Neuroscience major in Psychology to a stand-alone 36-credit degree under the same new STEM CIP code. She indicated that FIU does not directly admit students into this Masters-level program and that the M.S. program is needed as a potential off-ramp for the newly-proposed Ph.D. in Cognitive Neuroscience for students who are unable in reaching doctoral candidate status.

In response to Trustee Natasha Lowell's inquiry regarding the applicability with FIU Embrace, Sr. VP Bejar commented on the proposed programs in terms of the emphasis on topic-specific skills in neuroscience research methodology and data analysis, cognitive, developmental, and behavioral neuroscience, learning and memory, and neuropsychological disorders. Also, in response to Trustee Lowell's inquiry, Vice President of Research and Economic Development and Dean of the University Graduate School Andres G. Gil explained that FIU Embrace collaborates closely with the Department of Psychology and the Center for Children and Families, is funded by the state of Florida, and provides no-cost services to participating families and students.

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 Cognitive Neuroscience (CIP: 42.2706) 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 Cognitive Neuroscience (CIP: 42.2706) new program proposal.

In response to Trustee Donna J. Hrinak's inquiry, Sr. VP Bejar commented that the academic program inventory is fluid and dynamic and responds to industry demand, adding that an update on the University's academic program inventory is provided each fall.

AP5. COVID-19 Guidelines for Repopulating FIU Campuses and Regional Academic Locations

Provost Furton presented the COVID-19 Guidelines for Repopulating FIU Campuses and Regional Academic Locations for Committee review. He explained that on April 18, 2020 a repopulating task force was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and charged with developing a plan to repopulate FIU campuses and sites. He pointed out that the repopulating task force broke up into workgroups to address specific themes: risk mitigation measures, educational campaigns, supervisor, business unit head and employee guidelines, and guidelines for screening, testing, tracing and disinfection. Provost Furton indicated that repopulating will occur in phases as local conditions allow with the University reserving the discretion to determine when a transition between phases can occur as well as whether a return to any phase is warranted based on guidance and data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state, local, and university health professionals. He provided an overview of the guidelines relating to the three phases for the phased approach to repopulation.

Provost Furton commented that a university-wide campaign, Panthers Protecting Panthers, will be used to educate and inform the University community of the "new normal." He added that information on new rules throughout campus will be disseminated via email, informational videos

and signage and that central to the University's Healthy Campus Environment will be the FIU screening app with the same name, the Panthers Protecting Panthers app. He explained that said app will feature a questionnaire to be completed prior to arriving to campus by all students, faculty, and staff. He pointed out that while on campus, and in accordance with CDC guidelines, all faculty, staff, students and visitors will be required to wear a facial covering, adhere to physical distancing policies, and engage in frequent hand washing and sanitizing. He described changes that can be expected around University campuses, including the addition of plexiglass in high density interaction areas, the reconfiguration of classroom and public spaces to allow for physical distancing, and frequent cleaning of high touch areas.

Provost Furton pointed out that minimizing the risk to the University community will require every single stakeholder to take responsibility for following all newly established procedures and commented that the campaign will provide informational videos and materials on how to wear the required facial coverings, how to properly wash hands, what physical distancing means and how reconfigured classrooms will look. He explained that education will be at the forefront, noting that individuals unwilling to comply with all newly established procedures are not welcome on campus. He highlighted examples of signage and plexiglass installations.

Provost Furton pointed out that FIU partnered with Miami-Dade County, the Florida Department of Health, and the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition to open a COVID-19 testing site and that to-date over 15,000 tests have been administered since its opening. He explained that testing will be available to anyone experiencing symptoms or with known-contact with a positive case and that testing will also be made available for healthcare faculty, staff and students, researchers working with human subjects, housing populations, and high-density groups (i.e. student athletes, spirit groups, band, etc.). He indicated that the University will establish a baseline before a widespread return to campus and that FIU is in pursuit of a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certification for two labs to allow for in-house testing. Provost Furton commented on contact tracing and surveillance, noting that increased numbers of infections or a second wave of the virus will be the threshold that will require re-implementation of mitigation measures that must be executed immediately and that student housing has been set aside to isolate any positive cases and plans for support services for those students are in place.

In terms of academic program delivery, Provost Furton explained that all delivery modes, face-to-face, certified hybrid, approved synchronous remote, and quality designed fully online, will be encouraged to use Canvas for course content and assignments to allow for a quick switch to remote should it be needed. He commented that the University can only offer approximately 1/3 of courses face-to-face given decreased classroom capacity and availability due to physical distancing policies and that priority will be given to courses with no reasonable form of online instruction, courses which cannot be deferred to another term, introductory classes, gateway courses, and classes with high FTIC enrollment. Provost Furton provided an overview of fall 2020 delivery modes and presented examples of a Zoom-enabled classroom and decreased capacity in an auditorium classroom.

In terms of the planning assumptions, Trustee Leonard Boord commented on the requirement related to observing physical distancing and wearing a face covering when there is a possibility of not being at least six feet away from another person and recommended the need to clarify that wearing a face covering while observing physical distancing were both required while on campus. In terms of the general guidelines, Trustee Boord further commented on transitioning remote work back to on campus and questioned whether this should be an objective, indicating that in the absence of viable treatments or a vaccine, employees that are able to do so, should continue to work remotely. In response to Board Chair Puig's comments relating to the interactions and use of shared common spaces in student housing, Sr. VP Bejar explained that student housing has been identified to quarantine/isolate any positive cases and mentioned that plans for supportive services for students are in place inclusive of medical care and academic continuity support. In response to Trustee Hrinak's inquiry, Provost Furton explained that the criteria for Phase 1 of the reopening plan has not been met. In response to Committee Chair Alvarez's inquiry on enforcement mechanisms, Provost Furton pointed out that the educational campaign will be at the forefront and noted that central to success is a shift in culture.

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 COVID-19 Guidelines for Repopulating FIU Campuses and Regional Academic Locations.

4. Information and Discussion Items

4.1 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.

4.2 Authorization to establish a Graduate Medical Education Program at the Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System - Financial Presentation

As a follow-up to the Board's April 21, 2020 Full Board meeting, Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (HWCOM) Robert Sackstein facilitated a financial presentation related to the establishment of a Graduate Medical Education (GME) program at the Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System (VAHCS). He described funding from the state of Florida, namely, \$830K in recurring legislative appropriation to HWCOM for Primary Care Graduate Medical Education and \$3.6M in HWCOM Carryforward restricted by appropriation for Primary Care Graduate Education. He presented a financial proforma and delineated key dates: HWCOM submitted the Sponsoring Institution Application in May with a decision expected in October 2020; the Primary Care Residency Program Application is due January 29, 2021 with an expected decision in April 2021; and that the Primary Care Residency Program would start in July 2022.

Board Vice Chair Jose J. Armas commended the program. In response to Trustee Roger Tovar, Sr. VP and Dean Sackstein explained that the three-year program expects to have a full complement of 18 residents, with the first six residents projected to start July 1, 2022.

5. Student Government Updates

Trustee Alexandra Valdes, President of the Student Government Council at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, commented on priorities, including academic success, advocacy, and student engagement.

6. Faculty Senate Updates

Trustee Reinhold, Faculty Senate Chair, indicated that the Faculty Senate has held a number of virtual meetings since the transition to remote instruction and work. He indicated that, during this time, the Faculty Senate has, among other items, changed the Tenure and Promotion manual and reviewed and approved existing standard policies and new policies related to COVID-19. He described one new such policy, noting that the Joint/Combined Graduate Degree Pathways provides highly qualified students with the opportunity to expand their expertise and knowledge through admission into two graduate degree programs before commencing the pathway. He further commented that the policy aligns with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Principles of Accreditation.

7. New Business

No new business was raised.

8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Committee Chair Cesar L. Alvarez adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 12:30 p.m.

There were no Trustee requests.