



## Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee

June 16, 2022

FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms and via Zoom

### MINUTES

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#### 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 Vice Chair Donna J. Hrinak on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 11:50 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 (via Zoom)*; Donna J. Hrinak, *Committee Vice Chair*; Cesar L. Alvarez; Dean C. Colson, *Board Chair (via Zoom)*; Cristhofer E. Lugo; Joerg Reinhold; Chanel T. Rowe (*via Zoom*); Marc D. Sarnoff; and Roger Tovar, *Board Vice Chair and Athletics Liaison*.

Trustee Jose J. Armas was excused.

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

Committee Vice Chair Hrinak welcomed all Trustees and members of the University administration. She also welcomed Trustees attending via the virtual environment and the University community and general public accessing the meeting via the University's webcast. She introduced and welcomed Student Government Association President and student Trustee Cristhofer E. Lugo. She recognized and thanked Faculty Senate Chair and faculty Trustee Joerg Reinhold for his service, noting that his term as Faculty Senate Chair will conclude on July 31, 2022. Committee Vice Chair Hrinak commented that Professor Deanne Butchey will begin her service as Faculty Senate Chair and faculty Trustee on August 1, 2022.

Interim Provost and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar remarked on the appointment of William G. Hardin, Ph.D. as Dean of the FIU College of Business. Interim Provost Bejar commented that Dean of Libraries Anne Prestamo will be retiring on June 30, 2022, noting that in recognition of her service to FIU, Dean Prestamo will be appointed Dean Emerita of University Libraries starting fall 2022. Interim Provost Bejar highlighted several examples of how FIU professors continue to showcase their expertise and research. She pointed out that FIU is among 20 of the nation's top research universities that have formed the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities to increase opportunity for those historically underserved by higher education. She added that the 20 universities represent every university that has been both categorized as R1 (very

high research activity) by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education and designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

Committee Vice Chair Hrinak asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on March 3, 2022. A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee meeting held on March 3, 2022.

## **3. Action Items**

### **AP1. Tenure Nominations**

Committee Vice Chair Hrinak explained that at the conclusion of the spring semester, each year, the administration conducts a thorough review of faculty candidates who are in their sixth-year track towards tenure. She added that, this year, 25 candidates have met the scholarly requirements and have been recommended for tenure after the comprehensive tenure review process conducted by their respective department, chair, college review committee, dean, Interim Provost, and Interim President.

Interim Provost Bejar presented the tenure nominations for Committee review. She pointed out that FIU has a total of 634 tenured faculty and 197 tenure-earning faculty out of 1,719 full time faculty members. She added that tenured and tenure-earning faculty currently make up 48% of all full-time faculty members. She stated that the nominees selected to receive tenure are expected to demonstrate a significant record of scholarship and contribute at the highest levels in the areas of research and/or creative activities and teaching and service to FIU and to their profession.

Interim Provost Bejar commented on the tenure review process. She indicated that upon submission of the candidate's file, there are seven (7) rigorous and independent review stages before the candidates are presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. She remarked that the review includes an independent assessment from no less than five external reviewers who are tenured faculty and are highly regarded in their respective scholarly fields. She commented that teaching service and scholarship are assessed, including peer reviewed publications, presentations at scholarly meetings, patents, external funding, and other awards and/or creative activities. Interim Provost Bejar explained that it is an expectation that faculty members are actively engaged in and contributing to student success through excellent teaching and mentorship of students. She added that it is also expected that tenure candidates are active participants within the University community and their respective professional fields as well as participants in the collegial governance process.

Interim Provost Bejar pointed out that there were 28 faculty members who began the 10-year review process, noting that one (1) faculty member extended their 10-year review due to severe illness and two (2) faculty members subsequently separated from the University. She mentioned that, collectively, the tenure candidates have received over 80 grants, awarded over \$40M in research funding, have published or presented their creative works over 550 times, and are inclusive of three (3) patent disclosures and applications.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the FIU Board of Trustees approval of the Tenure Nominations as specified in the Board materials.

**AP2. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-108 Access to Student Education Records**

Interim Provost Bejar presented the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-108 Access to Student Education Records for Committee review. She explained that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that institutions maintain student education records in a confidential and secure manner. She pointed out that FIU-108 was last amended in February of 2020 and is currently being amended to add a new category, category number 3 Disclosures in Microsoft 365, and subsequent renumbering of the remaining categories accordingly. Interim Provost Bejar indicated that the proposed change adds information about internal non-directory information disclosure in Microsoft 365. She stated that FIU began a migration to Microsoft 365 in May 2022 to enable more efficient and secure operations under one platform, including student access to the Microsoft suite inclusive of Microsoft Teams which can be used to communicate and collaborate with members across the University community. Interim Provost Bejar noted that Microsoft Teams displays the student's name and FIU email address to any member of the University community with an active FIU Microsoft Teams account. She mentioned that the addition of this disclosure keeps the regulation in compliance.

In response to Committee Vice Chair Hrinak, Interim Provost Bejar confirmed that a student may request exclusion of their name and email address from Microsoft Teams.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the FIU Board of Trustees 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 (BOG) and as a result of the regulation-making process.

**AP3. Program Termination: Bachelor of Arts in Italian Language and Literature**

Interim Provost Bejar presented the program termination for the Bachelor of Arts in Italian Language and Literature for Committee review. She explained that enrollment in said program was suspended nearly 10 years ago and that FIU continues to offer courses in Italian language and culture through a certificate program and elective course offerings. She added that the BA in Global Languages, Cultures, and Literatures, which was approved by the FIU Board of Trustees in early 2022, will also allow students to pursue Italian language study through the proposed Dual Languages major option in the degree.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the FIU Board of Trustees recommend to the Florida Board of Governors the termination of the Bachelor of Arts in Italian Language and Literature (CIP 16.0902).

#### **AP4. Program Termination: Bachelor of Science in Communications**

Interim Provost Bejar presented the program termination for the Bachelor of Science in Communications for Committee review. She indicated that, with the goal of ensuring that graduates are prepared for the rapidly changing world of technology, as well as improving alignment to FIU's and the State University System of Florida's strategic goals, the FIU Board of Trustees approved the implementation of two new degree programs of strategic emphasis, specifically the BS in Public Relations, Advertising, and Applied Communication and the BS in Digital Communication and Media. She added that said new degrees have been successfully launched and FIU is now prepared to close the BS in Communications.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the FIU Board of Trustees recommend to the Florida Board of Governors the termination of the Bachelor of Science in Communications (CIP 09.0102).

#### **4. Student Government Updates**

Trustee Cristhofer E. Lugo, Student Government Association (SGA) President, commented on increasing student awareness as it pertains to student government. He indicated that as part of FIU's Juneteenth Week of Celebration, SGA, in collaboration with the Black Student Union and the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, hosted a Barbershop Talk to engage students in a discussion on their respective experiences as a Black student at the University. Trustee Lugo stated that SGA also engaged with incoming students at orientation. He remarked on a draft SGA resolution regarding critical attributes that the FIU Presidential Search Committee should examine as it conducts preliminary interviews for the University's next President. Trustee Lugo commented on collaborations with FIU Strategic Communications, Government and External Affairs to expand student engagement.

#### **5. Faculty Senate Updates**

Trustee Reinhold, Faculty Senate Chair, pointed out that the Faculty Senate held officer elections at its April 2022 meeting, noting that the current Vice Chair, Deanne Butchey, was elected as Chair, that current Secretary, Noël Barengo, was elected as Vice Chair, and that Patricia Pereira-Pujol was elected as Secretary. Trustee Reinhold commented on the book he gifted each Trustee, *Understanding Academic Freedom*, by Henry Reichman. He remarked on his upcoming sabbatical where he will focus on research, adding that he will begin serving as Chair of the Department of Physics in fall 2023.

#### **6. 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.

#### **7. New Business**

No new business was raised.

#### **8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**

With no other business, Committee Vice Chair Donna J. Hrinak adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 12:21 p.m.