



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UPDATE MEETING  
AUGUST 20, 2020  
MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks**

Board Chair Dean C. Colson convened the update meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees at 5:32 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, 2020, via Zoom.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Florida International University Board of Trustees. Present were Dean C. Colson, *Board Chair*; Roger Tovar, *Board Vice Chair*; Gerald C. Grant, Jr.; Donna J. Hrinak; Natasha Lowell; Gene Prescott; Claudia Puig; Joerg Reinhold; and Marc D. Sarnoff (*joined after roll call*).

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.

Board Chair Colson commented that the Board initially will hold weekly informational meetings that will serve as a platform to update the Trustees on the University's repopulation efforts.

**2. Public Appearances**

*There were no public appearances.*

**3. Discussion Item**

**3.1 Update on Repopulating FIU Campuses and Regional Academic Locations**

University President Mark B. Rosenberg explained that the University is operating under the guidelines approved by the Board of Trustees on June 16, 2020 and subsequently revised by the Florida Board of Governors on June 23, 2020. He pointed out that conditions have changed since guidelines were approved. Vice President, Operations and Safety and Chief of Staff Javier I. Marques commented that on April 18, 2020, FIU created the Repopulating Task Force consisting of University administrators, Board of Trustees representative Joerg Reinhold, faculty, staff, medical professionals, and emergency management. He explained that the Task Force was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and was charged with developing the framework for repopulating FIU. VP Marques described the several subcommittees of the Task Force and remarked that the Emergency Operations team continues to meet in order to ensure effective internal communication, implementation of initiatives, and continuity of operations. He commented that, as mentioned in the plan, the University's goal has been and remains to repopulate with a

progressive and intentional approach as local conditions allow, working with all appropriate local, state, and federal partners and guidance from healthcare professionals to minimize the risk to the FIU community. VP Marques stated that since January, the division of External Relations and Strategic Communications and Marketing has disseminated over 50 targeted COVID-19 email communications to the University community. He added 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 where, to-date, 47,784 Miami-Dade residents have been tested.

VP Marques indicated that the Division of Information Technology has developed the Panthers Protecting Panthers (P3) app, adding that the app has launched after significant beta testing. He stated that all University faculty, staff and students will be required to complete the app screening daily prior to arriving to campus. He added that to-date, over 4,100 faculty and staff and 12,211 students have completed the mandatory COVID training. VP Marques pointed out that, to-date, 7,462 student face coverings have been issued and that 9,559 individual employee packages, which include two (2) cloth, reusable face masks, hand sanitizer, disinfecting spray, and disposable towels for cleaning individual work spaces, have been delivered (96% completion). Relating to residential life, VP Marques remarked that, to-date, 1,222 students are living at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, with approximately 600 students expected to move in over the weekend, and that 144 students are living in Bayview housing, with an additional 35 students expected to move in over the weekend. VP Marques commented on identified study spaces available by appointment for students in libraries and that interior building signage and outdoor signage are 95% completed and installed.

CEO, FIU HealthCare Network; Associate Dean, Office of International Affairs; Associate Dean, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Eneida Roldan, MD, provided a COVID-19 summary for Miami-Dade County. She remarked on a decline in volume of testing, describing possible causes and commented that the median age of the reported COVID cases is 43, that most of the cases are between 25 and 34 years of age, and that most hospitalizations are within the age range of 55 years or older. She highlighted data demonstrating percent positivity for new cases in Florida residents, as reported by the Florida Department of Health, noting a downward trajectory in terms of percent positive, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and visits that are aligned with flu- or COVID-like illnesses. In terms of the testing site at the Miami-Dade County Youth Fairgrounds, Dr. Roldan presented data summarizing 14-day and three-day trends with corresponding zip codes with the highest reported percent positives. She described the three types of available tests and commented that FIU administers the Molecular (rt-PCR) and the Antibody tests in partnership with Quest Diagnostics. She stated that the University is reviewing options for administering the Antigen test and is seeking to acquire the needed equipment to have in place by mid-September. She remarked on the University's efforts to develop its own level-3 CLIA-certified lab on campus within the following weeks.

Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton commented on the four learning modalities for the fall semester, namely, all in-person, certified hybrid, approved synchronous remote, and fully online. He pointed out that a number of students, enrolled in graduate and professional programs, already have returned to campus as of August 17, 2020. Provost Furton described the delayed on-campus start (DOCS), noting that this approach reduces the number of

students physically on campus on the first day of fall classes. He remarked that under DOCS, classes will start meeting virtually during scheduled days and times, and begin meeting on-campus on September 14, 2020. He contrasted current seat distribution and new seat distribution and presented examples highlighting reconfigured classrooms and safety precautions. Provost Furton further contrasted current and adjusted fall 2020 room capacity and in terms of section modality, he indicated that in fall 2018, 81% of sections were in-person with 18% online and that in fall 2020, 46% of sections will meet remotely, 24% online, and 30% in-person.

In response to Chair Colson, Dr. Roldan commented that equipment to conduct rapid testing for both the flu and COVID would not be available until the end of September and that commercial equipment only has capacity for conducting one test at a time. Vice Provost for Population Health and Well-Being Yolangel Hernandez-Suarez MD remarked on general delays in the acquisition of instruments and on the University's scientific abilities to quickly set-up testing labs. She added that, central to repopulating FIU campuses, is the ability for the institution to conduct its own testing. Dr. Roldan pointed out that the overall volume of testing has resulted in inconsistent timely test results, noting that achieving reliable and accurate tests results has greater importance than obtaining rapid results.

In response to Board Vice Chair Roger Tovar, Dr. Roldan explained that availability issues and delayed shipments directly affect the University's ability to acquire the Sofia 2 Analyzer for the Antigen test, as well as the Abbott for the Molecular rapid test. Provost Furton indicated that while the University has the ability to run testing, the acquisition of specialized equipment would allow for high-volume testing. Vice Chair Tovar inquired as to how the University can become more self-sufficient in terms of testing, thereby allowing for the greatest number of tests possible. Dr. Roldan explained that the University's aim is to have multiple testing options available. Dr. Hernandez-Suarez indicated that CLIA certification has been received, that the University is in queue to receive the instrumentation, and that additional shifts can allow for increased testing from 250 to 500 a day, if necessary.

In response to Donna J. Hrinak, Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar explained that the University created an appointment process for student move-ins, which began on August 13, 2020. Sr. VP Bejar pointed out that there is capacity for over 3,000 students in the residence halls, adding that the 55 to 60% capacity for the fall semester ensures that there is appropriate space, provides for isolation areas for students who test positive, and also accounts for space for students who quarantine due to exposure. She remarked on safety measures and protocols, including a no-visitor policy, the installation of plexiglass and other barriers, and the cleaning and disinfection of common areas.

Trustee Natasha Lowell commended Dr. Roldan and Dr. Hernandez-Suarez.

#### **4. New Business**

No new business was raised.

## 5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Board Chair Dean C. Colson adjourned the update meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 6:37 p.m.

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Dean C. Colson  
*Chair*  
*FIU Board of Trustees*

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Mark B. Rosenberg  
*Corporate Secretary*  
*FIU Board of Trustees*

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