



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2020
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

Board Chair Dean C. Colson convened the informational meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, 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*; Cesar L. Alvarez; Gerald C. Grant, Jr.; Natasha Lowell; Gene Prescott; Joerg Reinhold; Marc D. Sarnoff; and Alexandra Valdes (*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.

2. Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

3. Discussion Item

3.1 Update on Repopulating FIU Campuses and Regional Academic Locations

Assistant Vice President, Division of Operations and Safety; Director, Department of Emergency Management, Amy B. Aiken reported on the number of COVID-19 positive cases and mortalities at the national, state, and local level. She remarked on the launch of the Panthers Protecting Panthers (P3) app, adding that nearly 2,000 faculty and staff completed the app screening between August 24-26, 2020. She commented on the hiring of 16 student ambassadors who will be working to educate and remind fellow students on the required protocols for facial coverings and physical distancing. AVP Aiken reported on the launch of the FIU Community COVID-19 self-reported cases website. She indicated that Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez announced that effective August 31, 2020, restaurants can resume indoor dining at 50% capacity, adding that the Offices of the General Counsel and Business Services are reviewing the changes in terms of the University's own dining services.

Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton commented on the early fall and fall First-Time-in-College cohorts, highlighting average GPA and SAT scores for the preeminent cohort, four-year graduation cohort, and the six-year graduation cohort. He presented data that

demonstrated only slight decreases for fall 2020 in terms of undergraduate, graduate, and dual enrollment levels when compared, point-in-time, to fall 2019. He pointed out that a number of students enrolled in graduate and professional programs returned to campus as of August 17, 2020 and that all undergraduate and graduate classes began on August 24, 2020. He remarked that at the start of the fall semester, 26% of sections began in-person, 53% remote, and 21% online and that, in terms of the delayed on-campus start on September 14, 2020, 30% of sections, largely undergraduate, will be held in person, 47% remote, and 23% online.

Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar explained that the move-in process continues and that as of the start of the fall 2020 semester, housing occupancy reached 53.5% capacity. She stated that the University has 360 housing agreements in place for spring 2021, with an approximate projected housing occupancy of 64%.

CEO, FIU HealthCare Network; Associate Dean, Office of International Affairs; Associate Dean, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Eneida Roldan, MD, commented on the COVID-19 testing site at the Tamiami Fairgrounds where, to-date, 52,387 Miami-Dade residents have been tested. She indicated that the positivity rate for the past seven days is 15.9% and described areas within Miami-Dade County that experienced the highest positivity rates, namely, West Kendall, Sweetwater, Richmond Heights, and Hialeah. She stated that data provided by the Florida Department of Health demonstrated a county-wide 7.67% positivity rate. She explained that while testing at the Tamiami site decreased to an average 650 tests per day, current capacity allows for up to 1,000 tests daily.

Dr. Roldan described the University's testing strategy as a targeted approach consisting of approximately 10% surveillance testing, and testing individuals that identify symptoms via the P3 app and those that have come into contact with COVID-positive patients. She remarked that University clinics have remained open and operational, despite the transition in March to remote learning and work and that the clinics work with Quest Diagnostics, which provides test results within 24-48 hours. She pointed out that the Tamiami testing site works with Curative Labs, which provides most test results within 48 hours. In terms of the proposed and in-progress testing capabilities, she commented that the University is on track to open its own on-campus CLIA-certified lab by October 1, 2020. She added that the University is pending receipt of specialized equipment and that once operational, the lab will have capabilities of running up to 500 tests a day. She added that the clinics also will have expanded capabilities with point-of-care testing. Dr. Roldan commented on updated guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), specifically that testing is no longer required for individual(s) that come into contact with a COVID-positive patient and that quarantining is no longer a condition of reentry for individuals returning from travel. She pointed out that the University has adopted CDC guidelines and that two (2) negative test results are no longer required as a condition of reentry for COVID-positive patients who have not exhibited symptoms in the prior 24 hours and have been in isolation for 10 days after receiving positive tests results.

Senior Vice President of Administration and Chief Financial Officer Kenneth A. Jessell pointed out that the University received federal awards under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of \$41.12M. He commented on the \$2.82M Minority Serving Institutions

award, noting that funds were received June 3, 2020 with one year to spend, that no expenditures have been made to-date, and that funds are to be used for grants to students and defraying expenses such as lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs, faculty and staff training, and payroll. He explained that \$19.15M in student grant awards under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds were received on April 22, 2020 and that the \$19.15M was expended, resulting in 9,550 student grants with an average \$2,005 award. Sr. VP and CFO Jessell indicated that \$19.15M in institutional support under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds was received on May 4, 2020 with one year to spend. He noting that said funds are to be used for costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to COVID-19, including refunds to students for housing and food that could no longer be provided, purchase of equipment and services to support change in delivery of instruction, and emergency financial aid grants to students. He added that as of August 26, 2020, \$5.6M has been expended for housing and meal plan credits, remote learning and technology expenditures, personal protective equipment, and disinfecting and cleaning supplies and that an additional \$2.6M has been encumbered, committed or spent by departments pending reimbursement. He explained that after expenses, encumbrances, approved commitments, and departmental expenses incurred and under review for reimbursement, the available balance is approximately \$10.9M. He commented that the additional requests under consideration, including teaching delivery costs related to teaching modalities, academic continuity services and resources for FIU Online, classroom and restroom cleaning, custodial headcount, graduate student employment, and additional financial aid grants to students, would deplete the available balance.

In response to Board Vice Chair Roger Tovar, Dr. Roldan explained that while currently Quest Diagnostics is returning tests within 48 hours, they have committed to the University to return test results within 24 hours. Board Vice Chair Tovar inquired as to the possibilities of the University's lab being operational prior to October 1, 2020 and increased capacity beyond 500 tests per day. Vice President for Research and Economic Development and Dean of the University Graduate School Andres G. Gil explained that the pending specialized equipment is not scheduled to arrive until mid-September and that said equipment would allow for rapid testing and that an increase in the number of staff members and shifts could allow for increased testing capacity per day, should the need arise. In response to Board Vice Chair Tovar, Dr. Roldan described a tiered approach that includes redundancy with multiple testing options. In response to Board Vice Chair Tovar and Chair Colson, Dr. Roldan described a decision matrix in which the multiple testing capabilities will respond to varying testing needs.

In response to Trustee Cesar L. Alvarez, Chair Colson explained that the weekly update meetings are for informational purposes only and that Board members are not obligated to attend and should participate based on their availability.

In response to Trustees Gerald C. Grant, Jr. and Natasha Lowell, Dr. Roldan commented on the testing options available to University students and faculty. In response to Trustee Marc D. Sarnoff, Dr. Roldan remarked on a holistic approach for analyzing data that extends beyond daily positivity rates and examines sustained downward trajectories, in addition to hospitalization and mortality rates. Also, in response to Trustee Sarnoff, Dr. Roldan commented that she would recommend

broader University repopulation under certain conditions, including at least a 14-day sustained positivity rate of below 5% in Miami-Dade County and extremely low hospitalization and mortality rates. Provost Furton pointed out that libraries and food services on campus are open and also described synchronous remote learning. In response to Board Chair Colson, Dr. Roldan remarked on the lower positivity rates within the FIU community as compared to that of the Tamiami test site. She explained that recommendations from the health committee and the testing and contact tracing groups are shared with University's policy group and executive committee.

Given that COVID-related conditions in Miami-Dade County vary from other parts of the state, Chair Colson requested, for a future meeting, an analysis comparing FIU to other institutions within the State University System. He commented that the next update meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2020 and that no update is planned for the week of September 7, 2020 given that the Board and its Committees will be meeting on September 9, 2020.

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 27, 2020 at 6:44 p.m.

Dean C. Colson
Chair
FIU Board of Trustees

Mark B. Rosenberg
Corporate Secretary
FIU Board of Trustees