



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2019

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

The Florida International University Board of Trustees' Health Affairs Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Jose J. Armas at 12:12 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted a roll call of the Health Affairs Committee members and verified a quorum. Present were Jose J. Armas, *Chair*; Justo L. Pozo, *Vice Chair*; Cesar L. Alvarez, Leonard Boord, Michael G. Joseph, and Rogelio Tovar.

Board Chair Claudia Puig, Trustees Dean C. Colson, Gerald C. Grant, Jr., Joerg Reinhold, and Sabrina L. Rosell, and University President Mark B. Rosenberg were also in attendance.

Committee Chair Armas welcomed all Trustees and University faculty and staff to the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Armas asked that the Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting held on May 23, 2018. A motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes of the Health Affairs Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, May 23, 2018.

3. Academic Health Center Reports *(No Action Required)*

3.1 General Update

In terms of follow-up from the Committee's last meeting, Dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (HWCAM) and Senior Vice President for Health Affairs Robert Sackstein referred Trustees to the supplemental materials relating to updated data on four-year graduation rates for the School of Integrated Science and Humanity, and to the meeting's agenda materials for the three-year performance report of the FIU Academic Health Center Health Care Network (FIU-HCN).

Dean and Sr. VP Sackstein described goals aimed at boosting biomedical research and innovation programs at HWCAM and the greater Academic Health Center (AHC) that would help establish FIU as a world-leading center for translational research. He defined translational research, noting strides by the AHC in a variety of disciplines, namely, biomedical engineering, antibiotic

development, and the effects of environmental toxins on health and wellbeing. In terms of HWCOP, he highlighted advances in immunology and nanotechnology. He mentioned the FIU Next Horizon 2025 Strategic Plan and more specifically, the goal relating to accelerating and enabling collaboration “across to generate new knowledge and innovative solutions for the betterment of our environment, health, and society.” He recognized the HERA Foundation, operated by doctors Carolyn Runowicz and Sheldon Cherry, for their generous support in establishing the HWCOP Summer Research Fellowship Program. He added that the program offers a summer research opportunity, with stipend, to pre-matriculants who are interested in gaining research experience.

Dean and Sr. VP Sackstein described the mission of the University’s Translational Glycobiology Institute and provided an overview of Institute initiatives and achievements. He reported on cross-disciplinary studies with the FIU College of Engineering and Computing to generate novel nanoparticles with heightened ability to combat cancer, collaborative studies with the University of Florida on tissue regeneration, engaging with the University of Miami on studies on improving immunotherapeutics, and the development of a first in human investigator-initiated clinical trial at the Miami Cancer Institute.

Dean and Sr. VP Sackstein stated that the \$1.5M gift from Diane Ramy Faulconer to support the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences’ (NWCNHS) Collaborative Advanced Rehabilitation/Research & Education (CARE) Center will help further the interdisciplinary focus, evidence-based practice, and holistic approach to patient care that lies at the heart of the NWCNHS’s mission and vision. He explained that the nearly 50% of the tenure-track faculty within the University’s College of Engineering and Computing are engaged in biomedical health-related research projects and have eight active National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded RO1 grants. Dean and Sr. VP Sackstein pointed out that, first time in its history, the public health program in the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work has been ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*, noting that the School of Public Health ranked 50th among public universities. In terms of the School of Integrated Science and Humanity, he indicated that the Center for Children and Families has propelled the University to be ranked #1 in the state and #5 nationally for research in psychology according to the 2018 National Science Foundation in Higher Education Research and Development Survey.

Dean and Sr. VP Sackstein noted the prevalence of depression among medical students and the medical profession, adding that suicide rates are three times higher in physicians than other professions. He described the HWCOP student counseling and wellness center, noting that psychological support programs are aimed at alleviating student stress. In furtherance of reducing student stress, he also discussed plans to pursue the implementation of a pass-fail curriculum at HWCOP.

Dean and Sr. VP Sackstein stated that the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step scores among HWCOP students are above the national average and that for the first time in HWCOP’s history, the average debt for graduating students has dropped below the national

average. In terms of support for student scholarships, he recognized the generous gifts from Dr. Albert and Debbie Taño, Aaron and Aviva Stauber, and Dr. Carmel and Josee Barrau.

3.2 Student Health and Wellness Update

Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar presented the student health and wellness update. She stated that last year, key units within academic and student affairs were integrated into one organizational structure, adding that student academic success is inextricably linked to emotional, physical, and psychosocial wellbeing. She provided an overview of the organizational structure for academic and student affairs. In terms of the student health services model, she explained that units and initiatives receive an internal allocation of University student health fee dollars and that in 2018-19, the student health fee allocation was \$12.2M. She added that the agreement with the HCN for the management and related support services of student health services has been in place for approximately five years and is governed by a Joint Governance Committee.

Sr. VP Bejar delineated the 2018-19 health fee allocation, noting that student encounters across all student health services totaled 141,110 and 183,179 if compliance encounters are included. She added that the student health clinic served over 9,000 students, that the Disability Resource Center served over 850 students, and that over 630 students received athletic training services. She pointed out that the pharmacy had a volume of over 11,000 prescriptions with sales exceeding \$320K. She explained that in addition to resources such as the Victim Empowerment Program and Healthy Living Program, students also had access to counseling and psychological services, health promotion services, and health compliance.

Sr. VP Bejar noted that Florida Board of Governors (BOG) Drugs, Alcohol, and Mental Health Task Force was established in January 2018. She pointed out that during the Task Force's meetings, three critical issues emerged as the highest priorities for the System, namely the impact on student academic performance; the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of drug use and mental health issues; and coordinating care for students across the institution and in the community. She indicated that the Task Force has implemented initiatives that include Healthy Campus 2020, healthy lifestyle programs, freshman needs assessment, and institutional amnesty policies, adding that the Task Force was also instrumental in the creation of medical amnesty legislation.

Sr. VP Bejar pointed out that over 3,500 students, a 21% increase over the prior year, sought counseling and psychological services, noting that depression, anxiety, adjustment issues, and stress management were among the top 10 reasons why University students seek out said services. She described the University's plans to hire additional counselors, to continue developing educational programming, and to implement the FIU Task Force on Student Wellness. Furthermore, she stated that the University will continue to work with the BOG's Academic and Student Affairs Committee and the Council of Vice Presidents to provide systemic solutions at scale. She pointed out that the final report from the Task Force requires that all institutions continue to work on a hard waiver insurance proposal, noting that this would make student health insurance mandatory. She explained that FIU currently does not mandate student health insurance coverage, adding that the mandatory insurance coverage will include riders relating to mental health and substance abuse. In terms of not

creating additional financial burdens for students, she mentioned that state-wide discussions are ongoing.

In response to Trustee Dean C. Colson's inquiry, Sr. VP Bejar noted that the University's clinic has set hours of operation and then described the process that University personnel would follow in the event a housing student presents with a medical emergency after hours. In response to Committee Chair Armas' inquiry, CEO of the HCN and Associate Dean for International Affairs Eneida O. Roldan explained that while students have unlimited access to the University's clinic under the health fee, certain non-routine procedures may not be covered and will require a fee. She added that clinic services include primary care, specialty care, and behavioral health and that hours of operation are varied, but generally are either 8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. or 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. with on-call services available after hours. In response to Committee Chair Armas' inquiry, Sr. VP Bejar pointed out that students pay \$93.69 per semester for the student health fee.

4. Reports *(For Information Only)*

There were no questions from the Committee members related to the reports included as part of the agenda materials: the School of Integrated Science and Humanity; the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine; the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work; the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences; and HCN Performance Report.

Committee Chair Armas requested updates at the Committee's next regularly scheduled meeting in order to continue the discussion on utilization rates, access, and the viability of providing continuous access to the University clinic.

In terms of access to services, Trustee Sabrina L. Rosell noted the positive changes under the leadership of Sr. VP Bejar and Associate Vice President of Student Health and Wellness Breny DaParre Garcia.

5. New Business

No new business was raised.

6. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Committee Chair Jose J. Armas adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Health Affairs Committee on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 12:58 p.m.

Trustee Request:

Committee Chair Jose J. Armas requested updates at the Committee's next regularly scheduled meeting in order to continue the discussion on utilization rates, access, and the viability of providing continuous access to the University clinic.