



Full Board  
September 22, 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**

Board Chair Dean C. Colson convened the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees at 1:56 p.m. on Thursday, September 22, 2022.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Florida International University Board of Trustees and verified a quorum. Present were Dean C. Colson, *Board Chair*; Roger Tovar, *Board Vice Chair*; Cesar L. Alvarez; Jose J. Armas; Deanne Butchey; Carlos A. Duarte; Natasha Lowell; Cristhofer E. Lugo; Gene Prescott; Chanel T. Rowe; and Carlos Trujillo (*via Zoom*).

Trustee Marc D. Sarnoff was excused.

Board Chair Colson welcomed all Trustees and members of the University administration and the University community accessing the meeting via the webcast. He also welcomed and introduced Faculty Senate Chair and faculty Trustee Deanne Butchey.

Board Chair Colson commented on recent highlights, including that the University welcomed nearly 4,500 students for the fall semester, which represents one of the largest freshman classes in FIU's history. He added that the average grade point average for students that started both in the fall and summer semesters is 4.23. He indicated that *U.S. News & World Report* elevated FIU to No. 72 in the nation among public universities. Board Chair Colson stated that FIU is the fastest-rising in U.S. public university rankings, having jumped 62 spots in the past 10 years. He mentioned that FIU was named top 25 nationally in the economic return on graduates' investment in a college degree by *Degree Choices*. He remarked that *Washington Monthly's* latest college guide places FIU No. 32 nationally in its annual ranking, which looks at a college's or university's contribution to the public good in three broad categories, i.e., social mobility, research, and providing opportunities for public service.

Board Chair Colson encouraged Trustees to register for the 2022 Trustee Summit to be held on November 9, 2022 at the University of South Florida. He added that Florida Board of Governors-appointed Trustees are required to attend the annual summits. He mentioned the upcoming Homecoming Game on Saturday, October 8, 2022 against the University of Connecticut.

**2. Public Appearances**

There were no public appearances.

### 3. Foundation Report

FIU Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors Secretary Jill M. Granat pointed out that the \$750M Next Horizon Campaign goal was surpassed and that more than \$780M has been raised to-date from 129,000 unique donors. She indicated that over \$94M was raised in fiscal year 2021-22, surpassing the \$84M goal. Director Granat provided fundraising highlights from fiscal year 2021-22, including a record \$12.8M in alumni giving, \$13.4M for scholarships, 32 new endowments totaling nearly \$6M, and \$1.8M raised by the Ignite Campaign with a 75% participation rate. She remarked that for the 10 months through June 30, 2022, \$94.7M in total philanthropy was raised and \$41.6M was received in cash.

Director Granat indicated that, effective July 1, 2022, ownership of the Management and Advanced Resource Center (MARC) building was transferred from the FIU Foundation to the University as required by the ground lease with the University. FIU Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors Treasurer Andre L. Teixeira and Senior Vice President of University Advancement Howard R. Lipman presented Board Chair Colson with a three-dimensional model of the MARC building. Director Granat commented on the Trish and Dan Bell Chapel. She stated that the Municipality Campaign is a collaboration with local governments to build upon the state's match program and will help close the first-generation funding gap. She mentioned that the alumni campaign aims to increase FIU alumni giving to 18% by 2025, increase awareness of FIU's success and alumni achievements, and create a pride-centric campaign which defines what it is to be a Panther.

Director Granat reported that as of July 31, 2022, the Foundation's total investment portfolio stands at approximately \$397.51M and that the Total Managed Assets returned 4.17% for the month of July. Sr. VP Lipman added that, through the end of the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Total Managed Assets returned -10.66%.

### 4. President's Report

Interim University President Kenneth A. Jessell commented that Ph.D. student Valentina Dargam is working on an algorithm that can differentiate the sounds of a healthy heart and one that is developing disease with high accuracy using an at-home test. He added that in recognition of Ms. Dargam's research potential, the Florida Heart Research Foundation recently named her the 2022 Early Career Stop Heart Disease Researcher of the Year. He stated that the award grants Ms. Dargam \$50,000 in research funding. Interim President Jessell commented that FIU launched a new program in veterinary forensics starting Fall 2023. He indicated that, in partnership with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the curriculum provides those working in animal services a comprehensive skillset to oversee animal cruelty cases.

Interim President Jessell mentioned that Associate Professor David J. Park from the Department of Communication published an award-winning book, *Media Reform and the Climate Emergency*, detailing the ongoing climate crisis. He indicated that Cyber Florida awarded FIU more than \$2M to fund four projects focused on educating and preparing students for careers in cybersecurity and information technology. Interim President Jessell commented on the University's freshman class, highlighting Benjamin Cure who accepted the Jim McKay Memorial Scholarship at the Sports Emmy Awards and Grace (Ga Eun) Jeong who excels in diverse disciplines ranging from the arts to the sciences. Interim President Jessell remarked that Diego Cardeñosa, FIU researcher and

Distinguished Postdoctoral Scholar, installed in-port DNA detection tools that help provide proof of wildlife poaching in the region. Interim President Jessell commented that a new study led by FIU researchers reveals a mechanism linking the pesticide DDT to Alzheimer's disease.

Interim President Jessell mentioned that the Alliance for Hospitality Equity and Diversity, led by FIU's Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, is on a mission to create a nationwide recruitment infrastructure to increase diversity among students at member universities. He noted that the initiative aims to create a pathway for Black and Hispanic students to become future leaders in hospitality.

Interim President Jessell indicated that Alumna, Edurne Soswa El Kakih '22, was awarded a nearly \$40,000 scholarship to attend a prestigious postgraduate research program at the University of Cambridge. Interim President Jessell remarked that the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine welcomed its newest class at this year's White Coat Ceremony. He added that *U.S. News & World Report* named the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine as the nation's second most diverse medical school in 2022. Interim President Jessell commented that the Florida Small Business Development Center (FSBDC) at FIU Business has been recognized as the FSBDC Network Center of the Year for 2022. He stated that FIU student Taylor Saenz, based on her outstanding contributions to diversity and inclusion to her field, won the 2022 Pi Theta Epsilon President's Award from the national occupational therapy honor society for being a culturally responsive occupational therapist.

Interim President Jessell stated that on September 19, 2022 FIU celebrated its 50th anniversary for the first day of classes at the Modesto A. Maidique campus. He pointed out that, for the eighth consecutive July-administered Florida Bar exam, FIU College of Law graduates earned the highest passage rate of any of Florida's 11 law schools.

## 5. Action Items – Consent Agenda

Board Chair Colson indicated that the Audit and Compliance Committee, Finance and Facilities Committee, Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee, and Governance Committee, respectively, recommended approval by the Board of the committee approved action items contained in the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to accept the Consent Agenda, and members of the Board approved the following actions:

- **BT1. Minutes, June 16, 2022** - Approval of Minutes of the FIU Board of Trustees, Full Board meeting held on June 16, 2022, at the FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms and via Zoom.
- **FF2. Authorization to Increase Project Budget for the Trish and Dan Bell Chapel and East Loop Road Realignment from \$15.44M to \$28.55M** - Authorization to increase the project budget for the Trish and Dan Bell Chapel and East Loop Road Realignment from \$15,444,286 to \$28,545,645.

- **FF3. Approval of Contracts greater than or equal to \$3,000,000:**
  1. PUR-05758, Anthony Travel LLC and PUR-05759, Uniglobe Travel Designers
  2. PUR-05770, Fisher Scientific Company LLC
  3. PUR-05731, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management

Pursuant to the Delegations of Authority from the Florida International University Board of Trustees to the University President, as reflected in the Resolution on the President's Powers and Duties approved by the Board of Trustees on March 4, 2019, (i) approve, as listed and described in the Board materials, the University entering into the contracts and purchase orders and/or change orders to the purchase orders and (ii) authorize the University President or his designee to execute, on behalf of the University, the aforementioned contracts and/or purchase orders.

- **AP1. Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nominations** - Approve five (5) candidates for Tenure as a Condition of Employment, as specified in the Board materials.
- **AP2. Florida Educational Equity Act Report** - Approve the Florida Educational Equity Act Report for the 2022 reporting year.
- **AP3. Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Annual Report** - Approve the Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Annual Report.
- **AP4. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-1103 Textbook Affordability** - Approve the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-1103 Textbook Affordability 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 and as a result of the regulation-making process.
- **AP5. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-2501 Student Conduct and Honor Code** - Approve the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-2501 Student Conduct and Honor Code, 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 and as a result of the regulation-making process.
- **AP6. Proposed Amendment to Regulation FIU-2502 Children's Creative Learning Center at FIU** - Approve the proposed amendment to Regulation FIU-2502 Children's Creative Learning Center at FIU 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 and as a result of the regulation-making process.
- **AP7. Program Termination: Bachelor of Arts in French and Francophone Studies** – Approve the termination of the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in French and Francophone Studies (CIP 16.0901).

- **AP8. Program Termination: Bachelor of Arts in Portuguese** – Approve the termination of the Bachelor of Arts in Portuguese (CIP 16.0904).
- **AP9. New Program Proposal: Master of Science in Psychological Sciences in Education** - Approve the Master of Science in Psychological Sciences in Education (CIP:42.2799) new program proposal.
- **AP10. New Program Proposal: PhD in Psychological Sciences in Education** - Approve the Ph.D. in Psychological Sciences in Education (CIP: 42.2799) new program proposal.
- **AP11. Initial Application for Specialized Admissions Status** - Approve the following baccalaureate degree programs for Specialized Admissions Status:
  - 09.0702 - BS in Digital Communication and Media
  - 09.0900 - BS in Public Relations, Advertising and Applied Communication
  - 44.0701 - BS in Social Work
  - 50.0501 - BA and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre
  - 50.0702 - Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art
  - 50.0901 - Bachelor of Music and BA in Music
  - 51.3101 - BS in Dietetics and Nutrition
  - 51.3801 - BS in Nursing
  - 52.0301 - Bachelor of Accounting
  - **BBA Degrees in:**
    - 52.0201 - Management
    - 52.0801 - Finance
    - 52.1001 - Human Resource Management
    - 52.1101 - International Business
    - 52.1201 - Information Systems
    - 52.1401 - Marketing
    - 52.1501 - Real Estate
- **AP12. 2022-2023 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposal Form** - Approve the 2022-2023 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposal:
  - Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County and Jackson Health System, \$ 400,000
- **G1. Update to Key Management Personnel** - Adopt a Resolution updating the Key Management Personnel and the delegation to the Key Management Personnel of certain responsibilities and authorities pursuant to 32 CFR Part 117, National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual.
- **G2. Ratification of the Amended 2021-2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the FIU Board of Trustees and the United Faculty of Florida - FIU Chapter** - Ratify the amended 2021-2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Florida International University Board of Trustees and the United Faculty of Florida (UFF-FIU).

- **G3. Board of Governors' Statement of Free Expression Endorsement Resolution** - Having reviewed the State University System of Florida Statement of Free Expression, endorse such statement.
- **G4. FIU Plan for Implementing Civil Discourse Recommendations** - Pursuant to the request of the Board of Governors, (1) approve the University's plan for implementing the Board of Governors' recommendations relative to civil discourse set forth in the Board of Governors' Civil Discourse Final Report and the University's civil discourse reporting template; and (2) delegate to the University President or his designee the authority to amend the plan and/or the reporting template in accordance with the Board of Governors' Civil Discourse Final Report prior to submission to the Board of Governors, including to update the progress of any items.
- **G5. Proposed Regulation FIU-107 Intimate Relationships** - Approve the proposed Regulation FIU-107 Intimate Relationships 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 and as a result of the regulation-making process.
- **G6. Direct Support Organizations Board Appointments** - Approve the appointments and reappointments of the individuals listed in the board materials, to the Florida International University Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors.

## 6. Action Item

### **FF1. Approval of 2022-23 Education and General Carryforward Spending Plan, Fixed Capital Outlay Budget, and Related Certification**

Board Vice Chair Tovar pointed out that the Finance and Facilities Committee engaged in a thorough review of the proposed 2022-23 Education and General Carryforward spending plan, Fixed Capital Outlay Budget, and related certification. There were no further questions from the Trustees.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the Florida International University Education and General expenditure plan for carryforward funds in accordance with State University System of Florida Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 9.007 State University Operating Budgets and Florida Statute 1011.45 End of Year Balance of Funds; approval of the FIU Fixed Capital Outlay Budget in accordance with BOG Regulation 14.003; authorize the University Chief Financial Officer to certify the unexpended amount of funds appropriated to the University from the General Revenue Fund, the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund, and the Education/General Student and Other Fees Trust Fund as of June 30, 2022 and the Fixed Capital Outlay budget; and authorize the University President to amend the Florida International University Board of Trustees (BOT) carryforward expenditure plan and fixed capital outlay budget as necessary and report to the BOT and the BOG any amendments to the spending plans in a format prescribed by the BOG Office of University Budgets.

## **7. Status Reports, Board Committees**

Board Chair Colson mentioned that the following Committees met earlier in the day: Audit and Compliance; Finance and Facilities; Academic Policy and Student Affairs; and Governance.

## **8. Presidential Search Update**

Board Vice Chair Tovar, Chair of FIU Presidential Search Committee, commented that the Presidential Search Committee held a number of interviews with highly qualified individuals. He indicated that, upon his urging, Dr. Jessell applied for the position of President of FIU and subsequently met with the FIU Presidential Search Committee. Board Vice Chair Tovar pointed out that the FIU Presidential Search Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Trustees Dr. Kenneth A. Jessell as the finalist to become the sixth president of FIU. Board Vice Chair Tovar pointed out that only one candidate is being recommended to the Board of Trustees, due to an unwillingness by other individuals to continue their candidacy, unless they were the sole recommendation of the Committee.

Board Vice Chair Tovar stated that Dr. Jessell has proven over the past 13 years, and in particular over the past eight months he has served as FIU's Interim President, that he is capable, committed and has the vision to lead FIU in its trajectory of success. Board Vice Chair Tovar remarked that he has observed and worked with Dr. Jessell for years in his role as CFO and had many opportunities to experience his work ethic, strategic thought process and unwavering integrity.

Board Vice Chair Tovar remarked that the search process will now enter the next phase, which will be public. He stated that the University will host a number of open forums with members of the FIU community in the next 21 days. He added that said forums will give University stakeholders an opportunity to interact directly with Dr. Jessell, share ideas, and ask questions. Board Vice Chair Tovar mentioned that the schedule of open forums will be shared in the coming days. He pointed out that, at the end of 21-day period, the Board of Trustees can meet to consider the Presidential Search Committee's recommendation and the community's feedback.

Board Vice Chair Tovar thanked Mr. Bill Funk and the R. William Funk & Associates team and recognized the work of the Presidential Search Committee. Board Vice Chair Tovar also thanked members of the University administration for their support and the support of their teams. In particular, he recognized Chief of Staff and Vice President for Operations and Safety Javier I. Marques, Associate Corporate Secretary and Assistant Chief of Staff Milly Bello, Ms. Melissa Sabellico, University Ombudsman Sofia Trelles, General Counsel Castillo, and Associate Vice President of Operations, Compliance and Systems for the Division of Human Resources Carlos Flores. On behalf of the Committee, Board Vice Chair Tovar, also thanked the FIU community for their input and engagement throughout the search process.

## **9. New Business**

No new business was raised.

#### **10. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**

With no other business, Board Chair Dean C. Colson adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Full Board on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 2:41 p.m.

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

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Kenneth A. Jessell  
*Corporate Secretary*  
*FIU Board of Trustees*