



Full Board
September 6, 2022
Zoom

MINUTES

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 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 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*; Jose J. Armas; Deanne Butchey; Carlos A. Duart (*joined after roll call*); Natasha Lowell; Cristhofer E. Lugo; Gene Prescott; Chanel T. Rowe (*joined after roll call*); Marc D. Sarnoff; and Carlos Trujillo.

Trustee Cesar L. Alvarez was excused.

Board Chair Colson welcomed all Trustees and members of the University administration. He also welcomed the University community accessing the meeting via the webcast.

Board Chair Colson stated that the Board's Bylaws provide that the Board Chair may, in consultation with the Corporate Secretary, allow an item to be presented to the Full Board without prior consideration by a Board committee when circumstances warrant. Chair Colson added that he and Interim President Kenneth A. Jessell were in agreement that to proceed directly to a Full Board meeting without a prior committee meeting would provide the most expeditious and efficient means by which to review the time-sensitive agenda items.

2. Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

3. Action Items

3.1 Legislative Budget Requests, 2023-2024

Trustee Natasha Lowell, Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Chair, explained that the 2023-2024 Legislative Budget Requests (LBRs) consist of three items which have been formally submitted to the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) for review and approval. She added that the BOG has requested that each Board of Trustees approve its university's LBRs. Interim Provost and Executive Vice President Elizabeth M. Bejar pointed out that the LBRs are a result of an assessment of needs developed by the BOG, in cooperation with State University System of Florida (SUS) institutions. She commented that the BOG will review the University LBRs at its September 13 and 14, 2022 meetings.

Interim Provost Bejar mentioned that FIU has ranked Top 3 in SUS performance metrics in the last two years and has consistently been Top 10 in the past decade in research expenditure growth among Carnegie R1 public universities. She stated that FIU is ranked Top 3% in research production among the nation's 4,300 colleges and universities. She indicated that the University's graduation rate is up to 59.4% and Pell Grant-eligible students, who account for more than half of FIU's undergraduate population, graduate at a higher rate than their classmates. Interim Provost Bejar commented that FIU is the fastest rising Carnegie R1 public university in the last five years and ranked Top 5 in social mobility among public universities in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual rankings. She commented on the recent announcement that FIU ranked Top 25 National University for Return-on-Investment by *Degree Choices*. Interim Provost Bejar indicated that *Washington Monthly's* college guide placed FIU No. 32 nationally in their annual survey. She stated that FIU is a top producer in awarding bachelor's degrees to minorities and is No. 1 in awarding bachelor's and master's degrees to Hispanics and Top 10 in awarding bachelor's degrees to African Americans.

Interim Provost Bejar presented the 2023-24 LBRs for Board of Trustees review. She remarked on the \$3,136,901 LBR relating to the Framework for Innovation in Undergraduate STEM Education. She indicated that the plan will expand on the STEM Transformation Institute's past successes on STEM Education and will provide mechanisms for optimizing student success at critical transitions in students' education. She added that the proposal includes multiple student-centered initiatives and will drive greater institutional efficiencies through sharing of system resources and alignment of key actions that support student success.

Interim Provost Bejar commented on the \$15,812,973 LBR pertaining to the FIU Program of Distinction on Environmental Resilience. She pointed out that the plan will advance current research programs and lead to innovative solutions for enhancing local, regional, and national resilience to environmental change, including preparing the workforce needed to address these challenges. She added that the plan will also raise FIU's academic standing by leveraging existing programs of national preeminence to generate new knowledge and innovative solutions for the betterment of the environment, health, and society. Interim Provost Bejar indicated that the proposal will create a "Strong Florida" through the creation of policies and projects that improve the health of Florida's cities and communities, and through a future workforce able to communicate across disciplines and implement convergent research approaches.

Interim Provost Bejar highlighted the \$60,700,000 LBR relating to Top 50 operational support. She indicated that FIU is requesting operational funding to continue its drive to a Top 50 public research university while sustaining FIU's strategic investments in outstanding student success programs and comprehensive and innovative 21st century research, workforce, and economic development initiatives. She delineated a funding breakdown, specifically: student success investments, \$22.5M; University infrastructure investments, \$33.2M; investing in transformational technologies for operational innovation and service improvement, \$5M; and realigning the University's workforce and investing in system upgrades and recurring licenses, \$5M. Interim Provost Bejar commented on the return on investment, namely, advancing FIU's student excellence and research capabilities, stimulating economic growth, accelerating the pace of innovation, and addressing the cost of living.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the 2023-2024 Legislative Budget Requests:

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| ▪ Framework for Innovation in Undergraduate STEM Education | \$ 3,136,901 |
| ▪ FIU Program of Distinction on Environmental Resilience | \$15,812,973 |
| ▪ Top 50 Operational Support | \$60,700,000 |

3.2 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposals, 2022-2023

Interim Provost Bejar explained that LINE funding is intended to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and health care partners to meet local, regional, and state workforce demand by recruiting faculty and clinical preceptors, increasing the capacity of high-quality nursing education programs and number of nursing education program graduates who are prepared to enter the workforce. She pointed out that the legislature provided a maximum of \$6M to SUS institutions for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. She indicated that, subject to available funds and selection and approval by the BOG, for every dollar contributed to an institution by a healthcare partner, the fund will provide a dollar-for-dollar match from the State's LINE fund.

Interim Provost Bejar presented FIU's 2022-23 LINE Fund Proposals for Board of Trustees review. She commented that the first LINE request is for matching funds for \$123,600 with Memorial Healthcare System (MHS) to support the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences partial salary and benefits of nursing faculty and/or adjunct faculty for one (1) year to develop, foster, and support the education and graduation of registered nurses to help mitigate the nursing shortage. She mentioned that the second LINE request for matching funds is for \$200,000 with MHS to financially support 20 nursing students who will be placed across MHS for their clinical learning experiences with the intent to increase student's commitment to work for MHS facilities for two years. Interim Provost Bejar mentioned that the third LINE request is for \$750,000 with Baptist Health South Florida to provide up to 72 undergraduate nursing students with financial support for their tuition and fees in exchange for a work commitment post-graduation. She noted that the last LINE request is for \$1.5 million with HCA Healthcare/HCA East Florida, which will support the launch of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences Nurse Educator Program. She added that the program will increase the number of highly qualified nurse educators for nursing education program and healthcare organizations throughout the state. She pointed out that the gift will provide funding for two faculty that will teach in FIU's Nurse Educator program and provide for nurse educator student scholarships, recruit, and prepare preceptors as nurse educators, and provide for general recruitment of registered nurses who want to become nurse educators.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve the 2022-2023 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposals:

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| ▪ Memorial Healthcare System | \$ 123,600 |
| ▪ Memorial Healthcare System | \$ 200,000 |
| ▪ Baptist Health South Florida | \$ 750,000 |
| ▪ HCA Healthcare/HCA East Florida | \$ 1,500,000 |

4. New Business

Board Chair Colson commented on the need to increase awareness as it relates to the University's accomplishments. He remarked that the LBR pertaining to Top 50 operational support will help to bridge the funding gap.

5. 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 Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 4:53 p.m.

Dean C. Colson
Chair
FIU Board of Trustees

Kenneth A. Jessell
Corporate Secretary
FIU Board of Trustees