

**THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

June 14, 2012

Subject: Athletics Conference Realignment

Proposed Board Action:

WHEREAS, the Florida International University (FIU) received an all-sports invitation to join as a member of the Conference USA league, effective July 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Conference-USA league is home to nationally prominent, tradition-rich members, all of which sponsor Division I-A football, along with competition in eight other men's programs and eleven women's athletic programs, many of which compete regularly for NCAA Championships; and

WHEREAS, the FIU men's soccer team has been an affiliate member of Conference-USA since 2005; and

WHEREAS, FIU's membership in Conference-USA will provide greater competition opportunities for FIU student-athletes, enhanced academic partnerships, financial growth and greater visibility for FIU, and will permit FIU Athletics to branch out in new states such as North Carolina (ECU, Charlotte), Mississippi (Southern Miss), West Virginia (Marshall), and Oklahoma (Tulsa), while maintaining its presence in Alabama (UAB), Louisiana (Tulane, Louisiana Tech) and Texas (Rice, UTEP, North Texas, UTSA); and

WHEREAS, FIU will compete for one final season against its traditional opponents in the Sun Belt Conference, and is grateful to the Sun Belt Conference and its members for spirited competition since 1998;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida International University Board of Trustees at its regular meeting this 14th day of June 2012, does hereby express its support for joining Conference USA, effective July 1, 2013, and its gratitude to the Sun Belt Conference and its members for a superb 14 year alliance.

Background Information:

Authority:

Florida Board of Governors Regulation 1.001(4)(d) provides that each board of trustees shall require that institutional control and oversight of its intercollegiate athletics program is in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The university president is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the intercollegiate athletics program.

Supporting Documentation: N/A

Facilitator/Presenter: Marcelo Claire, *Athletics Committee Vice Chair*