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1	PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE		
	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY		
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	Tuesday, April 12th, 2022		
4	6:01 p.m 6:59 p.m.		
5	Graham Center Ballrooms		
6	Florida International University		
7	11200 S.W. 8th Street,		
8	Miami, Florida, 33199		
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11	FIU VOLUNTEER COUNCIL LISTENING SESSION		
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19	PRESENT:		
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21	ROGER TOVAR, Chair		
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23	R. WILLIAM FUNK, Esq.		
24			
25	SOFIA TRELLES, PhD, Ombudsperson		

1 MR. TOVAR: Good afternoon. How are you 2 all doing tonight? My name is Roger Tovar and I am vice chair of the FIU Board of Trustees. 3 And in addition to that, it is my pleasure to 4 5 serve as the chair of the Presidential Search Committee. I would like to extend a warm 6 7 welcome to the Presidential Search Committee members and the FIU community who are joining 8 9 us for the listening sessions and thank them 10 for participating in this important step. The 11 FIU Board of Trustees met on April 5th to 12 announce the Presidential Search Committee 13 members. The Presidential Search Committee 14 also held its first meeting on April 5th. To 15 keep all of you and the members of the FIU 16 community informed, I am pleased to announce 17 that we have launched the presidential search website which will provide information on the 18 search process, meetings, and candidates. 19 This 20 website will also be updated routinely. We 21 invite you to visit this website. R. William 2.2 Funk and Associates based in Dallas, Texas has been selected to assist with the search for 23 24 FIU's sixth president. The firm has conducted more than 430 searches for colleges and 25

university presidents and chancellors. Mr. Funk is joining us today as we welcome members of the university community and the general public who are joining us via the website as we engage in a listening session. I now invite Mr. Funk to begin the listening session. Mr. Funk?

Thank you, Roger. 8 MR. FUNK: And 9 greetings to those of you in the auditorium. 10 You squeezed in here, so we're delighted to see 11 you here. And we have a number of people 12 online, and they will be making comments 13 virtually, and we look forward to receiving 14 those. But, again, thank you for being here. 15 As you -- as you maybe have already heard, 16 we're trying to focus on three questions, and 17 these three questions kind of get at a -- to 18 the nub of what we need to know when we 19 approach candidates and begin talking about the 20 position and why they should be interested in 21 the position. The first question as you may 2.2 recall is, what do you think the major 23 challenges and opportunities are that this next president will inherit both immediately and 24 longer term? Secondly, if those are the 25

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challenges and opportunities, what kind of 1 2 person do you think would be best prepared to 3 address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities? What adjectives would you 4 5 use to describe the ideal candidates, experience, leadership style, worldview, 6 7 personality, you know, what does that person figuratively look like that you think would be 8 9 a good next president. And then, thirdly, we 10 as the search firm, our job is really to be the 11 proactive agent of the search process, and that 12 simply means that, you know, our charge is to 13 go and talk to people who are not looking for a 14 new position. They're very happy where they 15 are now, they're very successful where they are 16 now, and we need to talk to them about why this 17 could be very interesting for them to become an 18 active candidate. We find that the best candidates often are the ones that don't 19 20 respond to the ad, they don't respond to a 21 letter from the search committee, rather it's 2.2 through that nurturing and cajoling of them 23 regarding the opportunity here at FIU that brings them to the table. We think it's a 24 wonderful leadership opportunity in higher ed. 25

As you know, there are a number of president 1 vacancies even in the State of Florida at 2 3 universities, and even around the country, there are always. If you go to the Chronicle 4 5 almost any time of the year now, there will always be 20 or so fairly good sized 6 7 universities looking for a new president, and then there are always another 20 of very small 8 9 schools or even some of the community colleges 10 and the like. So it's a competitive 11 environment and we want to make sure that we 12 put our best foot forward. But, honestly, I 13 think being here in Miami, a city that's 14 dynamic, it's a world class city, an important 15 city in the country and the world, that's an 16 advantage that we have here at FIU. The growth 17 trajectory that the university has been on, not only in terms of student enrollment growth, but 18 19 in terms of your research expenditures, 20 becoming an R1 institution. You just have it 21 all going in the right direction, and I think 2.2 people will find that very exciting and very 23 interesting.

24So what we're doing here at the front end25of the search is that the board was emphatic

that they wanted us to have as transparent a 1 2 search as possible, given the new Sunshine revisions where you only have to announce the 3 finalists, identify the finalists, more than 4 5 two I think the bill reads, so I quess that means three, I don't know why they didn't say 6 7 three, but, so the three, four, five finalists, whoever the search committee recommends to the 8 9 board. But we want to hear what each 10 constituent group would like to see in this new 11 president. We're having an open forum campus 12 wide tomorrow at 10:00 o'clock in this very 13 auditorium. And we've had a number of sessions 14 already today. We have a couple more tonight, 15 we have others tomorrow. And then we're going 16 to get down to the nitty gritty of really doing 17 contacting people, persuading them to come into 18 the pool and really orchestrating getting the 19 pool built. But we want to hear from you right 20 The constituents that you represent now. 21 obviously are very important to the 2.2 institution. They're important to us in terms 23 of providing us with thoughts about what this 24 next president should be. So we're about to 25 turn it back to you. We're here to listen. We will share thoughts and observations and answer any questions you might have, but who would like to share their thoughts first about these three questions?

5 MS. TRELLES: So as members of our 6 audience walk to the areas where you can 7 utilize the microphone, I did want to share that we do have a number of community members 8 9 on our virtual platform, so should you have any 10 comments or questions that you would like to 11 share so that your voice is heard, please 12 remember to utilize the technology that we do 13 have available. We want to make sure that 14 every single person gets an opportunity to be heard and to share their feedback and their 15 16 comments so that our search firm is aware of 17 it. Thank you.

18 MR. SCINTO: I guess I'll jump in the 19 front of the line here. My name is Len Scinto, 20 I'm the Chair of the Department of Earth and 21 Environment, and a research scientist with the 2.2 Institute of Environment here at FIU. We are 23 known, FIU is known as preeminent university 24 for environmental resilience, and so I'd like to think that we're looking for candidates who 25

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-- where environmental resilience, the nexus 1 2 between empowerment and society really plays an 3 important part in your thinking, and the way they view their importance to this job. 4 Being 5 in Miami, this president has the opportunity to use our location, our location as a major 6 7 public university in a large metropolitan area surrounded by a natural ecosystem services of 8 9 the Everglades, and Florida Bay, and Biscayne 10 Bay. And so that person has the ability to 11 really make a transformative change in how 12 society sees and educate members of the 13 society, and how they see the ability of 14 society interacting with nature for the 15 betterment of all. And so I'd really like you 16 to look for a guy who -- or a person, not a 17 guy, a person that takes that as really kind of 18 an important thing, is a forward thinking 19 person looking at all the stressors and 20 pressures of a major urban community, you know, 21 three feet above sea level, right. And at the 2.2 university that is preeminent in doing the 23 research, bringing the people together in both 24 the ecological and societal nexus, and so that's kind of what I wanted to --25

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MR. FUNK: Great.

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2 MR. TOVAR: That's an excellent point. 3 And, you know, one of the things that we've talked to, different than what you just 4 5 mentioned is the connection to the community and how that person fits into the community. 6 7 Now you bring in an additional component which you're 100 percent right, it's the 8 9 environmental resiliency component and how we 10 interact with the South Florida community and 11 what's going on in Biscayne Bay, and what's 12 going on in the Everglades, and all the work 13 that we do there, so I jotted down that point. 14 And I think that something that is so relevant 15 and we need to connect the dots as to that, so 16 thank you very much. Perfect point. Thank 17 you. 18 MS. RUSSELL: Good afternoon. 19 MR. FUNK: Good afternoon. 20 MR. TOVAR: How are you? 21 MS. RUSSELL: My name is Heather Russell. 2.2 I am vice provost for faculty leadership and 23 success, and I work very closely with our --24 with Provost Bejar, and I represent my office 25 works of course very closely with the deans and

the department chairs and representing the interest of faculty across the board. I will also share that I am a proud Rutgers alum, so I thought you did a very good job with the most recent Rutgers search. President Holloway is indeed --

MR. FUNK: Thank you. We'll talk about -we should talk about that.

9 MS. RUSSELL: Very happy to do so. So, 10 you know, as you would imagine, it would come 11 as no surprise, the questions of academic 12 freedom and tenure and promotion are great, you 13 know, preoccupying the minds of many faculty. I think there is a real concern on the part of 14 15 faculty that they would wish a leader who is a 16 champion for them, champion for academic 17 freedom, who also is able to demystify what academic freedom is and what it's not, and is 18 able to sort of share with our stakeholders who 19 20 come to the question of tenure and of 21 promotion, and of the work that faculty do from 2.2 very different places. I don't know that we 23 have always done as good a job as we might of 24 demystifying the work of faculty, irrespective 25 of whether they're tenured or not. We have

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faculty who are -- some are on the tenure track 1 2 at FIU. We have a large portion of our faculty who are instructional faculty who are teaching 3 faculty, and we have taken great strides to 4 5 ensure that all of our faculty feel valued, and we want to -- we would like a leader -- who 6 7 believes in the faculty, who is willing to work with faculty leaders to help create a climate 8 9 where faculty can thrive irrespective of their 10 positions because to the degree that the 11 university is able to achieve on its promise, 12 it's very much dependent on having that 13 contract between faculty and students. And our 14 faculty -- you know, if -- I can tell you from 15 experience, when I -- I've been here since 2003 16 and just kind of moved to administration the 17 last six years, so prior to that students, my 18 students might not remember even the courses 19 that I taught, they may not even remember the 20 department that I was in, but they remember the 21 content, right, they remember what they 2.2 learned, they remember the interaction, they 23 maybe don't remember the college, right, they were at College of Arts and Sciences then, but 24 25 they knew that they were English majors, and

what that meant, and that connection that we have between faculty and students and the care and concern that our faculty take every day really in advancing not just our calling to teach, but also our calling to research and to serve is very important, and so I think for us that would be significant.

8 MR. FUNK: Great. Thank you very much. 9 And all of the comments are being recorded by 10 our -- note taker sitting in the back of the 11 And we're going to try to work these room. 12 major themes into the leadership statement, the 13 ultimate position description, if you will. We 14 were referring to -- we've done the last two 15 searches at Rutgers by the way, and this most 16 recent one we're quite proud of. We recruited 17 Jonathan Holloway who was the provost at 18 Northwestern, first African American president 19 at Rutgers, first person of color at Rutgers 20 University. He's doing by the way -- I just 21 hear great things about was he's doing. Former 2.2 dean of Yale College went to Northwestern as 23 provost and now to Rutgers. Thank you very 24 much for your comments.

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MR. TOVAR: I'll tell you, you know, we're

going to have some time here, so we might as 1 2 well welcome the opportunity as to those comments. I can't speak for any other 3 university, but I can speak for my experience 4 5 here at FIU, and sometimes I think there's 6 issues that are created that people say, well, 7 we're concerned about let's say that they want to get rid of tenure. I don't know who they is 8 9 because it's not something that comes up in any 10 of our board meetings and that's the only place 11 that we meet. The only thing that we talk 12 about tenure is people that have gone through 13 the faculty process for tenure who are proposed 14 to us. And what's interesting to me regarding 15 what we vote for on the board is that we don't 16 vote for deans, but we vote for tenure, and so 17 we'll get a bio on somebody and in no meeting, 18 in no board meeting that I've been to is has there ever been a discussion of one individual 19 20 that's been proposed for tenure. We just vote 21 for them and we say, this is what's been 2.2 proposed, they've gone through the process, and 23 we vote yea or nay, and it's always yea. So I 24 would just encourage sometimes those -- now, 25 there is sometimes at the state level somebody

at the state that is at the political level 1 2 will say, well, why are we giving people these 3 positions for life, and I would even suggest to you in your role today that that may be 4 5 something for you to come and present to the 6 board as to some of those points and what the, 7 you know, what the concerns are and everything And again, even on the academic freedom 8 else. 9 side, I think -- I can't speak for anyone else 10 on the board, but I suppose, if it was my point 11 of view, I want everything to be taught. This 12 is a university setting and people are here to 13 be educated, and they should hear all sides, 14 points of views, and they should feel -- the 15 students should feel free to give their points 16 of view, that their grades are not going to 17 suffer, because I think there's some 18 misperception sometimes on the student's side 19 that they feel that, well, if I voice a 20 differing point of view to the professor, so I 21 would just hope that we do our job here as to 2.2 getting back to a point where everybody can 23 have dialogue and respect each other's points of views and listen to each other, and not 24 25 shout each other down. It just needs to be

much more productive. But I do want to leave you with a message that I've never heard of anyone at the board saying, wow, if we could just get rid of tenure. It just is not taking place. So I hope you understand where I'm coming from --

7 MS. RUSSELL: I 100 percent do, and I just as a point of clarification, I completely 8 9 agree, and many of us feel very fortunate to 10 have the board that we do have who are 11 supporters with us in terms of all of our 12 faculty processes, including tenure and 13 promotion. I think the key is to have a leader 14 who is able to speak to these issues, who is 15 able to sort of understand the nuances of them, 16 and is able to message in an effective way to 17 the various stakeholders who come to the table from different sort of -- sometimes different 18 19 perspectives, sometimes, you know --20 perspectives, so how do we, you know, sort of 21 titrate that so that, you know, we're creating 2.2 an environment here for faculty where they can 23 thrive. And we know certainly Trustee Tovar 24 that you're very much pro faculty and in 25 support of us, so. We are working as we speak

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on, you know, working through. We do have a sustain performance review post on your process already. We have been having conversations about how to perhaps strengthen it, awaiting guidance of course from the Board of Governors who will be setting forth the policies soon, so.

The other thing I would 8 MR. TOVAR: 9 encourage you to do in your role, and I've -- I 10 won't say the names I've mentioned this to 11 because I don't want to put anyone on the spot, 12 is, you know, we look at the diversity in 13 different areas, and then we look at the 14 diversity in the faculty, and I think we're 15 lacking in it.

MS. RUSSELL: Absolutely.

17 MR. TOVAR: And so the question becomes, 18 and you're lacking at it at the dean level, 19 you're lacking at it at the associate dean 20 level, and so the question is to why, and then 21 the next question is, how do we develop more 2.2 people because this is not about, well, I need 23 one more of this, or one more of that, so let 24 me go steal it from another university. It's 25 just -- to me it's not healthy. The real thing

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is, how do we communicate and convince people 1 2 that this is a career path, how do we support 3 that as to making that happen to truly affect change, not to talk about change. So not to do 4 5 it today, but I would welcome your input as to 6 what we can be doing better, and what you need 7 from us as a board --8 MS. RUSSELL: I have some ideas, so I'm 9 happy to have that conversation. 10 MR. TOVAR: Great. So -- but I do think 11 that it's more complex issue than just, you 12 know -- we've got to do better. And as I've, 13 you know, tried to understand in different 14 areas in different things that are going on, 15 what's working, what's not working, it's 16 something that does jump out at me that I would 17 encourage you and whoever else. If there's 18 something that I can help or support with to 19 make that happen, please let me know. 20 MS. RUSSELL: Great. Thank you. 21 Thank you. MR. TOVAR: 2.2 MR. FUNK: We wanted to see how long we 23 could make you stand. 24 MS. CAMPA: It's good exercise. 25 MR. FUNK: Thank you.

MS. CAMPA: I promise I was not going to 1 2 talk to her, but, you know, things happens. I 3 think -- my voice. My name is Adriana Campa. I am tenure and emeritus. I dedicate my life 4 5 FIU is my family. I'm a product of to FIU. I wouldn't have a career without FIU, 6 FIU. 7 that's why I try to promote this relationship of FIU to the community. But I stood here 8 9 because I wanted somebody that have leadership to maintain and expand the international in 10 11 Florida International University. We are in a 12 place in Miami in which we have this 13 international profile and all these mix of nationalities and races, that we need somebody 14 15 that can actually maintain and expand this type 16 of uniqueness that FIU has in the United States and probably in the world. And that's it. 17 Ι 18 promise I'm not going to talk anymore.

MR. TOVAR: I think it's a very good point, and it was actually a point that was brought up in the previous session, and to tell you how proactive the folks that are working on this, we've already gone and adjusted our ad to include hopefully a couple lines to exactly that point because that was not part of the ad,

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and it's something that we missed, to highlight 1 2 the international side of what is our name, 3 Florida International University, so --MS. CAMPA: And remember, we have some 4 5 campus all over the world. 6 MR. TOVAR: That's right. So I think 7 somebody has already aligned with you, and we think we all agree, so that's -- we are going 8 9 to be highlighting that beginning with our ad and everything else that comes with it. 10 So 11 thank you for that comment. 12 MS. CAMPA: Thank you. 13 MR. TOVAR: Thank you very much. And, 14 Javi, is that -- are we going to be able to 15 make that change? 16 MR. MARQUEZ: Yes, sir. I'm working on 17 that as we speak. 18 MR. TOVAR: Great. So I think it's a very 19 good suggestion. I wanted to have a pastelito, 20 and I was thinking, I had my wife in my head 21 saying, you better not be eating those 2.2 pastelitos, so I will watch you eat the 23 pastelitos for me. Thank you. 24 MS. TRELLES: I'm totally quilty. I had a 25 pastelito right before this session. But I do

1 want to share --

2	MR. TOVAR: And by the way, Bill, I caught
3	him back at the table, he said, man, these are
4	good. I said, this is Miami.
5	MR. FUNK: I've left a trail up here on
6	the stage, by the way, they're very flakey.
7	MS. TRELLES: They make the perfect snack
8	in between our sessions. And I do want to
9	share that we have received some comments from
10	our online participants. So the first comment:
11	It is important to have someone that can
12	exhibit and project the dynamism that is FIU
13	and the greater Miami-Dade. FIU has grown
14	exponentially and continues to punch above its
15	weight. FIU has a terrific community,
16	institution exhibiting leadership, support, and
17	resources while continuing to demonstrate
18	itself as an excellent educational institution.
19	It is expected a leadership candidate with
20	excellent qualifications that is someone
21	community focused and future forward.
22	MR. TOVAR: And, again, I agree with all
23	that. And that's been one of the things that I
24	push for a lot either at the board meetings on
25	some of the committees I serve with the

marketing folks, how we do our advertising. 1 We 2 continue, you know -- and I preface everything 3 that I say, it's not a criticism because I'm amazed by everything that this university has 4 5 accomplished just in 50 years. I mean, there's few institutions that are as relevant and have 6 7 grown as much as we have, have done the things that we have, the amount of schools that we 8 9 have including now a medical school, a law 10 school, our engineering school, and on and on I 11 The criticism I have is we do not do a can qo. 12 good enough job telling our story. We still 13 need to do better at that. Now, I will tell 14 you somehow the word gets out because we were 15 recognized about a year ago with MacKenzie 16 Scott and Dan Jewett and the gift they made, 17 and that was in recognition and in support of 18 what we do versus other large institutions like 19 that, and that's to help support, foster that, 20 and continue that. And one of the things that 21 has been my point of view on the board is to 2.2 make sure we utilize those funds to continue 23 and build on what they recognized us for. But 24 still you go out there and there's -- at some 25 part because I end up traveling from time to

time because of my businesses, there's still 1 2 people that confuse FIU with FAU, and there's some of that confusion. There's confusion if, 3 you know, people know what FIU is here, but 4 5 they still don't know, even if they've gone to 6 school here, how much we've grown, they haven't 7 been on campus for 20, 30, 40. Now, I think we're improving that. But we -- whoever our 8 9 next leader is needs to continue building on 10 that, be able to connect with the community, 11 even with the Dade County Commission. You 12 know, there's -- our current mayor is always 13 here and involved in our activities and a lot 14 of the other things which is amazing. But there's still some of those commissioners we 15 16 need to connect better with because all of 17 these different influencers play a role in what 18 we do and the mission that we serve, and so I 19 think we need to continue building on how we 20 talk about what we do, our wins, our needs, the 21 support we need, so 100 percent the future 2.2 leader needs to have that very top mind. We do have another comment. 23 MS. TRELLES: 24 Good evening. Thank you for hosting this

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session via Zoom for virtual interaction for

those of us that are unable to be with you 1 2 today on campus. I have been a member of the dean's council for the College of Business for 3 many years, and as an alum I would like to 4 5 emphasize the challenges caused by the great disruption to our economy and workforce caused 6 7 by the pandemic are ongoing and will continue to reprobate for the foreseeable future. 8 As one of the most critical educational 9 institutions in our region that helps shape the 10 11 talent pipeline that will help our country and 12 the world emerge from this disruption. I would 13 urge the search committee to emphasize the attributes of humility, foresight, and 14 15 curiosity forged by a lived experience that 16 reflects a depth and diversity of our student 17 body. Required skills that compliment these attributes would include attention to detail, 18 19 the ability to build and empower a -- of 20 leaders, and a commitment to lead through 21 change with purpose that reflects our 2.2 university's values. MR. TOVAR: I think all of that is 23 24 important, but I'm -- I'm always very proud as

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to when I hear about our students compared to

students from other universities as to their 1 work ethic, tenacity, humility, so I think we 2 3 can continue pushing those points, but I get goosebumps when I see the students that we 4 5 graduate. And, you know, you go any given semester there's I think somewhere between 8 to 6 12 commencement exercises, and if you take the 7 time to go to any of those and you see the 8 look, smile, and the determination on those 9 10 graduate's faces. This is a special place. So 11 point well taken. We will communicate that. 12 But I think the students that we are graduating 13 are an amazing bunch, especially that most of 14 them have to work through going to school here. And just that determination as to a lot of the 15 16 backgrounds that our students come from is --17 they're special people. MR. FUNK: So we've had three of four 18 19 in-person attendees make comments. I'm 20 wondering if the fourth person would like to 21 make a comment? 2.2 MS. TRELLES: Very subtle, right? 23 MR. FUNK: Yeah. I think you were hiding. 24 MS. PRESTAMO: Good evening. Thank you for holding this session and for seeking input 25

from so many of the important constituencies. 1 2 My name is Anne Prestamo, I'm the Dean of Libraries. I've been at FIU since 2013. Not a 3 Miamian or Floridian. Worked at institutions 4 5 previously, and the big 12 and the big 10 before coming to Miami. There's been 6 7 discussion already this evening about the need for someone to be present and be engaged with 8 9 the community, but I think that's a very 10 important element on the campus as well. I --11 it's kind of a sad thing to say, but 12 institutions I had worked at previously, it was 13 not unusual to encounter a faculty or a staff 14 member on the campus who had never seen the 15 president in person. And when I came out to 16 FIU in 2013, it felt welcoming. The size was a 17 bit overwhelming at times, but yet it has a 18 small town feel, and that is largely because so 19 many of the campus administrators are out and 20 about and they have conversations with faculty, 21 with staff, doesn't matter, you know, if it's a 2.2 vice president or a dean, we see administrators 23 out there speaking with the grounds crew, and that to me is one of the things that makes FIU 24 25 such a special place. I'm going to be retiring

soon, so perhaps I don't have all the filters 1 2 that I had in the past, but I do want to go back to the academic freedom topic. And I 3 absolutely agree that I think everyone here at 4 5 FIU is very fortunate to work in an open environment that does encourage all points of 6 7 Unfortunately I think at the state level view. politics have weaved their way in. There are a 8 9 number of bills that were passed in the 10 legislature this past year. Some of them more 11 focused on K-12, but many have elements that I 12 think a lot of folks in higher ed are concerned 13 about.

14 And not to confuse that FIU and FAU thing, 15 but FAU has been in the process now for several 16 months of trying to find a replacement for my 17 counterpart there, their Dean of Libraries, and the feedback from the search firm is they've 18 19 been having a difficult getting candidates 20 because of some of the press that Florida has gotten nationally, so I think that's something 21 2.2 to keep in mind.

And my final, the person who's right for the job. When I was interviewing here at FIU I was asked several times, you do know that Miami

is a very different place to live, and at first 1 2 I thought people were joking, but after a while I realized that at least some of them were 3 asking it in a serious way. Having been here 4 5 for nine years, I couldn't imagine living any 6 other place at this point, and after retirement 7 we plan to stay here. But I think if you talk to any department chair, dean on the campus, 8 9 they will tell you about wonderful hires that 10 they have made and faculty who have perhaps 11 thrived here professionally, but Miami can be 12 kind of an overwhelming place, whether it's 13 traffic, language, whatever, so I think up 14 front it's really important to as much as you 15 can in the brief time that a search process 16 takes to try to acculturate the candidates as 17 much as possible to Miami. And there are many 18 of us that would be very happy to talk about 19 and show them all the things that we think 20 makes Miami such a wonderful place to be. 21 Thanks. 2.2 MR. FUNK: Great. Thank you. 23 Thank you, dean. You know, MR. TOVAR: 24 even when I spoke with Bill regarding this 25 position, one of the things that I pointed out

that I thought was important as far as being 1 2 president of FIU, and frankly to me of any 3 university is somebody that's not holed up in their office or their presidential house, and 4 5 especially a university like FIU which we have 6 two main campus, we have satellite campuses, we 7 have now what is the Center for Translational Sciences, we have the Botany Center in Coconut 8 Grove, we have a Research Center down in the 9 10 Keys, there's just three museums, and I think 11 it's important for the president not only to 12 walk around campus, but to periodically visit 13 every place that we have out there, and to be 14 seen and to say hello to people, and talk to 15 people. And I was visiting a campus just a 16 month and a half ago and the president walked 17 by and I -- he didn't know me or anything else, 18 I was with a group, we were just doing a tour, 19 and stopped by, and the young lady who happened 20 to be a student said, well, that's just not 21 today, he's walking around all the time 2.2 talking, and that's very important for 23 students, and that makes them feel special and 24 belonging, and an opportunity to speak to the 25 president. As far as the community, that's

been a topic I think at every meeting as to how 1 2 does the person fit into South Florida? Some folks go in the direction that they feel that 3 the person should be here from South Florida 4 5 because if not, they'll never fit in or understand. My point of view, and remember, 6 7 anything that I say is just my point of view and however I can deliver that as either part 8 of the board or part of the committee, yes, we 9 10 need someone that is going to engage and be 11 part of the community, understand the community 12 understand this is a diverse community, 13 understand there's many moving pieces within 14 this community. But that doesn't necessarily 15 mean that the person needs to be from here. 16 The person needs to have that type of 17 personality that you can drop that person in 18 anywhere. And there's many people. Now, 19 there's some people that you're going to 20 interview that I think will become evident that 21 if I dropped them into South Florida into FIU, 2.2 I don't know if they'll ever fit in, so that's a conversation we need to have, and we need to 23 24 understand. So very, very good points. And I think having the committee that we have that is 25

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very diverse and being able to have that 1 2 dialogue based on the candidates we have. 3 These are points that we want to go through and talk about and check the box on and then let 4 5 the board talk about it, and, you know, what's 6 amazing, you know, and sometimes we criticize 7 government or we criticize entities, but the process, the way it's structured for the 8 9 search, for the president has a lot of checks 10 and balances within it, starting with a search 11 firm, starting with how we advertise for the 12 position, creating a committee that has not 13 only board members but people from the 14 community, people from the student body, people 15 from the bog, and so it creates a very good 16 group to do the search, and then it goes to the 17 board, and then it still has to be approved by 18 the board of governors. So I think within that 19 entire process we should end up with a very 20 good president to lead us forward. And I'm 21 I think this is a great opportunity, excited. 2.2 so thank you. Thank you. 23 MS. TRELLES: So I wanted to bring back a

23 MS. IRELLES: So I wanted to bring back a 24 question that we had from a previous session 25 because I think that it's good for general

knowledge about our process. So: In your experience, how long does it take from when someone is selected to them being in place and getting to work?

5 MR. FUNK: The same answer. You know, it's interesting. In higher education unlike I 6 7 think private industry, sometimes a new president is announced and it can be six months 8 9 before they really begin, and that's okay. Ι mean, everybody understands that sometimes 10 11 that's how it works. But more often it's 12 certainly less time than that. And I think 13 there's only -- usually candidates will say, 14 gee, I'm about to immerse myself in this new 15 leadership role and I want to go in fresh and 16 ready, so I'd like to have at least two to four 17 weeks before I jump in. So I think honestly, 18 you know, 80 percent of these transitions occur 19 like that. You also have the phenomenon and 20 sometimes the home institution, if it's a 21 sitting president, isn't very happy about their 2.2 person leaving, and they do say, well, you 23 know, we're going to appoint an interim, and 24 why don't you just go ahead and take that job But on the other hand, it seems like it's 25 now.

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someone is selected, they'll start visiting the 1 2 campus once every couple weeks, and then they'll start coming twice a week for a period 3 of time, and before you know it, at the time 4 5 they're supposed to begin, they're there almost 6 every day anyway, that transition takes place. 7 But it's not a case of candidates wanting a lot of lead time. Now, and I'll point out quickly 8 9 that that's not necessarily the case with --10 because our -- the presidential searches 11 honestly are about six months in length from 12 beginning to end. Sometimes the academic chair 13 and dean positions take longer. You know, 14 those can be, as some of you know, I mean, 15 these can be nine months, a year, and then 16 whatever the next beginning of the term is, 17 whether it be the fall term or the winter term, 18 these folks will show up. But it's not a 19 lengthy period of time that's needed. I think 20 people, you know, they do want to be rested and 21 ready when they come because they know that 2.2 they're going to immerse themselves. MS. RUSSELL: Given that we have some time 23 24 and no more people to call on in the audience,

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I thought I would avail myself -- making just

one quick point I think that speaks to the 1 2 first question which has to do with major 3 challenges and opportunities. I think I want to frame this more so in terms of opportunities 4 5 that I think any president will have. So when 6 we do appoint our new president at FIU, that 7 president will then be charging another committee to search for the next provost, to 8 search for -- we have two -- two dean searches. 9 10 Currently we are -- we have had ongoing, it was 11 pressed -- there was a pause, but will be 12 The search for the dean of the reopened. 13 Steven J. Green School of International Public 14 Affairs, that school has received --15 designation and we're very excited about those 16 opportunities. We're very sad to see Dean 17 Prestamo retire, though I was happy to hear that she'll still be with us in Florida, but 18 19 that will then open up that -- her position, so 20 there would be a search for the Dean of Libraries as well. As these as opportunities 21 2.2 that a new president would have opportunity to 23 build her or his strong leadership team. And I 24 think, you know, though, you know, at first blush when we had to really pivot quickly, and 25

I can't overstate how fortunate we have been as 1 an institution to have interim President Jessell appointed and interim Provost Bejar appointed. They have steadied the ship and we 4 have been able to continue to do great work. That said, you know, I do see this as a chance for a new president to build on the strong foundation that we already have to build a team. And I think that's a really unique I can think of few other examples where place. 11 that's been the case, so I think that is 12 something to really sort of highlight with 13 prospective candidates.

14 MR. FUNK: I think honestly most Great. 15 presidential candidates would see it as an 16 opportunity to build their own team. At the 17 same time of course, they like to have someone 18 that has the continuity of being here. But I 19 think most candidates, say, yeah, I'd like to 20 know, I'd like to be involved in the provost 21 search. Obviously it would come to that person 2.2 who had selected ultimately, but they would maybe want to interview all the finalists and 23 24 the like, and the dean vacancies the same. Ι 25 was going to mention too to the earlier point

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about Florida maybe having some difficulty 1 2 filling the positions because of geopolitical things. But, you know, it's funny, we used to 3 kid that there are group of folks in New 4 5 England that think no education goes on south 6 or west of the Hudson River, you know, they 7 just aren't going to move out of that area to You know, it's kind of interesting 8 here. 9 what's going on though, and I think Florida is 10 part of this, but we've done president searches 11 for all the SEC's schools at one time or 12 another except one, and of course all those 13 SEC's school are in the southeast, and there's 14 something to this notion of the new south. You 15 know, the new south is powerful, and it's where 16 the demographics are coming. You know, that's 17 one issue that I don't think you're going to have in Florida is the enrollment cliff that 18 19 everybody's talking about. I mean, we have to 20 pay attention to it, but people are coming 21 here. And I suspect you're going to see your 2.2 enrollments -- they'll probably increase. But we haven't really sensed that kind of 23 24 resistance, except for that hard core group in 25 New England that just doesn't seem to want to

move anywhere. Anything else, guys? Yes, ma'am? The 11:00 o'clock news will feature some of you --

MS. CAMPA: I was going to add that in the 4 5 past when we have a new person coming in that was not from inside, we offer them a council, 6 7 you know, a group of three or four people of the -- that actually he can meet with a regular 8 9 basis and get some council. Usually it's 10 formed by three to four people that have long 11 term at FIU that can meet with this new person, 12 in this case it was the dean, and give them 13 advice. And the reason I know is because I was 14 part of that counseling group, but this is 15 something that can be offered from people from 16 the outside to get during the first months in 17 FIU, probably three to six months council and advice of what is the culture in FIU. 18

MR. TOVAR: That is a good point. Outside of that even I was at a football practice a couple of weeks ago and I met some of the coaches wives, and I was asking them where they had been or where they had eaten, and I was thinking to myself exactly that, they're kind of lost without somebody kind of bringing them

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in and saying, well, this is Wynwood, this is downtown, this is the beach, these are the places to go. Obviously what you're suggesting is much more detail and information, so I think it's a good point. Let's find the candidate, and then we may need that, we may not, depends on who we find, but good point and well taken. Thank you. Thank you.

9 MR. FUNK: You know, that kind of 10 underscores the importance of good on-boarding. 11 You know, that's become kind of a catch phrase 12 in the last two or three years, but when you 13 think about it from a university president 14 point of view, I think a carefully orchestrated 15 on-boarding process could be very beneficial 16 for success. You know, I think, you know, if 17 they mess up early, they're probably doomed for 18 the rest of their tenure, but if you can get 19 them off to a good start, meet the right 20 people, take them to Tallahassee, make sure you 21 see the donors in the local area, get to know 2.2 the higher education structure and the other leaders of the other institutions, make sure 23 24 they visit every department within the first 25 six months or so that they're here, frequent

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conversations with the board. On-boarding I think beyond the catch phrase can be a very helpful tool for success of these people.

I agree. But hopefully the 4 MR. TOVAR: 5 leader you identify intuitively understands the importance of figuring these things out and 6 7 reaching out, but your point is well taken as to having a small group to be able to ask 8 9 questions, lean on, meet with periodically I 10 think is very good. I think we've run out of 11 time, am I correct? Okay. All right. Well, I 12 appreciate you alls input. I've got to make 13 one closing remark. A university wide 14 listening session will take place at 10:00 a.m. 15 on April 13th to get input from our students, 16 faculty, and staff regarding the qualities and 17 qualifications we want to see in our next 18 president. Please join us in the Graham Center Ballrooms. This too will be live streamed. 19 20 And obviously you all and whoever you speak 21 with are invited back to participate in that 2.2 But we've taken up enough of your time. so. 23 So thank you very much. Thanks for the input. 24 Appreciate you all being here. Thank you. 25 MR. FUNK: Thank you.

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THE STATE OF FLORIDA) COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE) I, Daisy L. Amador, a Court Reporter, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did report the proceedings, had and taken at the Graham Center Ballrooms, Florida International University, 11200 S.W. 8th Street, Miami, Florida, 33199, on April 12th, 2022, for the Presidential Search Committee; that the foregoing pages, numbered 1 to 40, inclusive, constitute a true and complete record of my notes. I further certify that I am not an attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor related to any of the parties, nor financially interested in the action. Dated this 19th day of April, 2022. <%17328,Signature%> Daisy L. Amador Notary Public for the State of Florida Commission No.: HH175493

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