	Page 1
1	PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE
	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
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	Tuesday, October 11th, 2022
4	10:00 a.m 10:54 a.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 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE COMMUNITY SESSIONS:
12	FIU LEADERSHIP
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19	PRESENT:
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21	KENNETH A. JESSELL, Ph.D., Presidential Candidate
22	
23	SOFIA TRELLES, Ph.D., Ombudsperson
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25	R. WILLIAM FUNK, ESQ. (via Zoom)

1	DR. TRELLES: Good morning, everyone. My
2	name is Dr. Sofia Trelles. It is my pleasure
3	to extend a warm welcome to the members of the
4	FIU community who are joining us today for an
5	opportunity to meet and hear from presidential
6	candidate finalist Dr. Kenneth A. Jessell. R.
7	William Funk and Associates based in Dallas,
8	Texas has been selected to assist us with the
9	search of FIU's Sixth President. The firm has
10	conducted more than 430 searches for colleges
11	and university presidents and chancellors. Mr.
12	Funk and his team will be joining us today
13	through Zoom as we welcome members of the
14	university community and the general public.
15	Today and tomorrow's sessions can be attended
16	in person, through Zoom, as well as FIU
17	webcast. After today's presidential
18	presentation we will be offering an opportunity
19	for Q and A sessions. You may submit your
20	questions both in the audience as well as
21	through our FIU Zoom.
22	Dr. Kenneth A. Jessell is interim
23	president of FIU, a position he has held
24	DR. JESSELL: I got it, okay, I'm on.
25	DR. TRELLES: Okay

DR. JESSELL: I said -- my video, but --

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DR. TRELLES: All in a morning, right? as interim president Dr. Jessell serves as a chief executive officer for the university, and he's responsible for academic and educational programs, research enterprises and economic development, advancement in fundraising, community engagements, intercollegiate athletics, diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, human resources, and facilities management. Prior to his appointment as interim president Dr. Jessell served as senior vice president for finance and administration, as well as our chief financial officer at FIU from 2009 to 2022. In his position he was responsible for the management and administration of financial facility and business services operations of the university. Dr. Jessell is also a professor of finance in the College of Business Administration at FIU. It is my pleasure to introduce you to Dr. Kenneth A. Jessell.

DR. JESSELL: Thank you, Sofia, for your kind introduction, and thank you, colleagues, for being here this morning. I am honored and

humbled to be addressing you today as a candidate for the Sixth President of FIU. As most of you, I was not intending to be a candidate for the permanent position of president. However, sometimes our plans change, and something that was never dreamed about presents itself as a dream come true. Over the past nine months as interim president I have learned to love FIU more than I could have imagined, and have found both the opportunities and challenges of the position more rewarding than any of my prior positions. I have been rewarded professionally more than I thought possible.

Now, while I have been here at FIU for 13 years, for some of you, and no one in the room that I can see, but for some of you virtually this may be the first time that we have interacted in person or virtually. Let me tell you just a few things about Ken Jessell.

First, I was born in Fort Lauderdale, and except for my time at Florida State University, I have lived my entire life in either Broward County or Dade County. I am a product of the K-12 public school system in Broward County. I

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am a first generation college student. to Florida State University where I received three degrees, a bachelor's in political science, an MBA, and a Ph.D. in finance. Ι started my first job in 1983 at Florida Atlantic University as a professor in the department of finance and real estate. then in 2009 after spending 26 years at FAU, I joined the amazing FIU Panther Team. I have a loving and supporting wife, Laurie (phonetic), and in December we will have been married 46 I have a son, John (phonetic), a daughter, Amanda (phonetic), a son-in-law, Jeffrey (phonetic), and my real pride right now, my grandson, J., who is 18 months old. And I still have my loving mom, who will be 93 in just three weeks. I would now -- I'm sure you're thinking, that's really kind of a boring life, but it has been an exciting life.

I would like to spend a little time discussing the priorities I will be focusing on if given the opportunity to serve FIU as its next president. First slide. First I want to talk about student success. As a national urban public research university, FIU will

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continue to invest in our students and their 1 academic and career successes. Our faculty 3 must be not only excellent scholars, but also proficient in evidence based teaching 5 practices. We embrace faculty who bring path breaking research into the classroom as part of 6 evidence based and inclusive teaching. culture of teaching excellence facilitates 8 9 learning so our students are critical thinkers 10 who can take what they have learned in the 11 classroom or in the lab and apply their 12 knowledge to solving important problems. 13 must continue to innovate our curriculum so it 14 is aligned with career needs, and to adopt different designs and methods for learning that 15 16 are more meaningful for today's 21st century 17 learners, including experiential learning, 18 competency based learning, and 19 micro-credentialing. Our system of shared 20 governance and collegial discussions and 21 cooperation are more important than ever in 2.2 keeping our curriculum relevant. FIU continues to be a leader in innovation. Our global 2.3 2.4 learning for global citizenship QEP that we

adopted ten years ago is successful because we

know the value proposition of our students, understanding both culture and cultures within a global framework. Our 2021 OEP critical skills for the 21st century focused on student attainment of skills related to artificial intelligence, data, and emotional intelligence through micro-credentialing courses. However, we are already seeing the expansion of A.I. and E.I. throughout our curriculum. I cannot think of a single program that does not have significant A.I. and E.I. applications and learning opportunities, and these skills translate to jobs. We will continue to be accountable to our stakeholders and measure our progress and performance in educating our students, including retention and graduation rates, employment, and strategic degrees, as well as other key metrics related to research and access. FIU's keen focus on performance has been the primary reason why we have excelled in both state and national rankings, as well as why we have received significant incremental state performance funding and philanthropic funding such as the \$40 million McKenzie Scott gift that we received in 2021.

I am committed to our goal of achieving top 50 public university in U.S. News and World Report rankings in three years. I know that is an ambitious goal. We are the fastest rising university in U.S. News public rankings in the last 10 years, up 62 spots, and we are now ranked number 72. I know it gets harder and harder to increase as we rise in the rankings, but I know we can get there with the right focus and the right investments. Indeed, we have already achieved many top 50 rankings over the past few years, including those focusing on economic mobility, return on investment, innovation, and research expenditure growth. FIU will remain committed to maintaining our focus on access by providing educational opportunities to Pell eligible students, our students with the greatest financial need, and ensuring that they graduate as guickly as our non-Pell students. We all know an FIU education is not restricted to students with high financial resources, and our number four ranking in social mobility by U.S. News and number 32 ranking in Washington Monthly reflect our commitment to improving the lives of our

students, their families, and our community.

We are committed to improving these impressive rankings even further in the months and years ahead. Next slide, please.

Second, I want to talk about research excellence. FIU is an R1 public research university and is in the top three percent in the research production of all universities and colleges in the country, and I remain committed to the research enterprise of our university and the planned investment of resources to expand research opportunities to our faculty and to our students. Research is critical to expanding knowledge, developing innovative solutions to problems, and gaining a better understanding of the complex world we live in. Our research expenditures have surpassed \$245 million, and we are in the top 10 of research expenditure growth of R1 public universities over the past 10 years, and we are poised to hit the \$400 million mark by 2025. And we already exceed the research expenditures required for preeminent research university designation by the Florida Board of Governors. Quality research requires investments, and I

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1 believe the greatest opportunities for external research funding at FIU are in the areas where 3 we already have achieved a competitive advantage through established infrastructure, 5 and nationally and internationally recognized and acclaimed academic and research programs 6 such as those in environment and health. is especially true when we focus on 8 9 interdisciplinary research that involves most 10 if not all academic programs at FIU. 11 example, environmental resilience covers 12 everything from sea level rise, ecosystems, 13 salt water intrusion and water quality, extreme 14 weather events, and building mitigation to name just a few. Environmental research will 15 16 include the sciences, architectural design, 17 business, education, sociology, health, 18 forensic science, engineering, construction, 19 global affairs, technology, and computer 20 science, law and health, as well as many other discipline. I believe that this focus on 21 2.2 interdisciplinary research will enable us to 2.3 maximize the opportunities for grant awards and 2.4 research that will solve global problems.

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know too that industry partnerships are

critical to both basic and applied research.

We will need industry at the table to solve the challenging problems we as a community, nation,

4 and the world are facing. Next slide.

Third, I want to talk about sustainable resources. FIU must have sufficient and sustainable human physical and financial resources to fulfill our mission of outstanding teaching, research excellence, and community engagement. The recruitment and retention of our best faculty and staff are my highest priorities. I understand the difficulties of the current market conditions, both economically and personnel-wise. Our team proposed and the FIU Board of Trustees approved last month a \$60.7 million legislative budget request for top 50 operational support. request was also submitted to the Board of Governors last month. Included in this request is almost \$26 million to retain our outstanding faculty and staff who have demonstrated sustained exceptional performance and commitment to quality teaching, student success, and research. Also included is \$15 million in scholarship support for students, \$5

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million for the hiring of additional faculty in 1 areas of strategic importance, and in areas where we need to decrease student to faculty 3 ratios, and 12.5 million for investments in 4 5 technology to improve operational efficiencies and cover reoccurring costs. I will advocate 6 to the Board of Governors and legislative leadership for these additional funds to 8 9 support FIU, and I have already done so. 10 Additionally, I will advocate for additional 11 funding to achieve a level that is fair and 12 equitable for FIU compared to the funding 13 received by our sister institutions. You have 14 my commitment that I will stay focused on FIU's 15 strategic priorities and not take on new 16 initiatives that are not strategic, and that 17 often times dilute the scarce resources we 18 already have. I will be asking the question, 19 what is the ROI on this project, every time. 20 That question is in my DNA. I will also work 21 tirelessly on expanding our sources of 2.2 revenues, particularly philanthropy, net 2.3 auxillary revenues, and external grant funding, 2.4 and find ways to provide high quality administrative support services, and achieve 25

cost savings through shared services, including human resources, information technology, business and financial services, and research administration. Additionally, I have already asked the FIU Foundation to prioritize student scholarship funding in their annual development goals, and to focus on gifts that meet FIU's strategic priorities. Next slide.

Fourth, university affinity and engagement. Declining college enrollments nationwide have required increased efforts on retaining and graduating every student we admit. We understand better than ever before that we must do a better job of ensuring our students are successful in college, and that the cost of losing a student is significantly more than the cost of recruiting one. Students who are engaged with their university through student clubs and organizations, Model U.N., student embassadors, Greek life, athletics, marching band, Panther Camp, and the dozens of other student groups we have at FIU typically achieve greater gains in learning, are more satisfied with their college experiences, experience stronger mental health and well

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being, feel more prepared for life after college, are more likely to promote their institution, and give back financially to their alma mater at higher rates once they graduate. And this engagement translates to higher retention and graduation rates of our students which improve our metrics and our rankings. You may have observed this affinity over homecoming week, particularly on Saturday where it was standing room only on our housing promenades. The excitement was amazing, amazing. These benefits are multiplied when we create an engaged community of faculty and staff along with students where mentoring, collegial discussions, and encouragement take place, and where ideas for research and innovation emerge through our great halls, in our offices, in our Wolfe and Graham centers, in our food courts, on our plazas and lawns, and on the bay. This affinity also translates to stronger alumni engagement. The experiences of our students while they are here will define how active and supportive our alumni are after they graduate. And our alumni give back in many ways. They provide mentoring and

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internship opportunities for our current students, and help improve job placement rates once they graduate. And they help with admissions by serving as ambassadors and telling FIU's remarkable story. It is a source of immense pride for Panthers who hire Panthers. Every time I talk to an employer who is an FIU graduate, he or she tells me how many other FIU grads they have hired, and what they expect to hire in the future. They know the value of the education our students receive. They know the value proposition of an FIU degree. Engaged alumni also support FIU financially. We have almost 300,000 alumni, and most of them are in South Florida; imagine the impact of their advocacy. And finally, we need to stay engaged with our community. Our community and FIU are better off when our students, faculty, and staff collaborate with our larger community. We can enrich the lives of our residents through health, and civic partnerships, service, and research. And we know the community will reciprocate by supporting FIU. Believe me, it is a two-way street. Many of the largest gifts to FIU are

from members of our community who were not FIU alumni. Herbert and Nicole Worthine (phonetic), Patricia and Phillip Frost (phonetic), Trish and Dan Bell (phonetic), Steven and Doretha Green (phonetic), Mitchell Wolfson (phonetic), the Chaplain (phonetic) family, the Bachelor Foundation, the Knight Foundation, Baptist Health, and Benjamin Leon (phonetic), benefactors who believe in FIU and its mission. Let's face it, we are a Panther Family and a Panther community, and we work better together.

So where does this take us? We can certainly be proud of what FIU has accomplished over the past 50 years, starting on an abandoned air field opening to the largest enrollment of any educational institution at that time, 5,667 upper-division and master students, and now we are educating over 56,000 students achieving \$246 million in research expenditures, being the number one producer of baccalaureate degrees to a -- excuse me, number one producer of all degrees to Hispanics, being a top 10 producer of baccalaureate degrees to African Americans, and achieving national

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rankings typically reserved for much older universities. FIU has always had lofty goals and high expectations, and these have always been exceeded, and they will continue. Our successes speak for themselves and they are speaking in a loud voice. And yet the best is yet to come. We will continue to focus on student success and research excellence. will continue to produce great leaders, teachers, researchers, scientists, healthcare providers, lawyers, innovators, and entrepreneurs. And I believe together as a Panther Family we have the opportunity to be the world leader in solving the biggest problems facing society today, the health of its people and the environment we live in. Thank you for the opportunity to be with you today. And now I'm happy to answer questions, so next slide on O and A.

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DR. TRELLES: I'm back. So as Dr. Jessell puts on his headset, I wanted to share with you all that we have 71 members of our community joining us through webcast, and an additional 20 who are joining us through Zoom. If anybody in the community has any questions in regards

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to the actual presidential search process, we do have Mr. Funk on Zoom and he will be able to answer any questions. We have also had the opportunity to collect some questions while we did the RSVP process and we've grouped those through themes. If those themes are not relevant to the current session that we're in, we're going to be having an opportunity to have those questions be answered by Dr. Jessell during our general session later on this afternoon as well as tomorrow. But now I open it to all of you and those of you who are joining us through Zoom and webcast to ask any questions that you would like from our presidential candidate, Dr. Jessell.

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DR. JESSELL: You moderate or do I pick?

DR. TRELLES: -- moderate. Please, the floor is yours.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Good morning. Good morning. So thank you so much, Dr. Jessell, and just want to say, we really appreciate your candidacy. Thank you so much for saying yes to the call. Just before I ask the question, I just want to acknowledge that today is National Coming Out Day, so I want to just extend the

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courage and support to those that are interested in coming out today. And along that vein, you have been a key champion to the work of institutional equity and diversity, and inclusion and belonging since its inception with the launch of the equity action initiative that prompted the division of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Earlier this year the university did experience a transition in leadership, and I will tell you that there have been concerns, reverberating concerns about the commitment to the work of diversity, equity, and inclusion at the university. So if you would please speak to us about your commitment to continuing the work here at the university to elevate and amplify, excuse me, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

DR. JESSELL: So this is definitely a very, very high priority for me. As you mentioned, D.K., when we were first talking about this we devoted additional university resources to support the initiatives. It's nice to talk about the E.I., but if you don't have the resources in place to encourage it, to support it, to monitor it, and manage it, it's

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really not going to go very -- very, very far. It's got to be much more than just a discussion. And we even added additional resources through the elimination of one position up in the president's office that were redirected down to this initiative. firmly committed to DEI. I want everyone to have amazing opportunities at FIU, and I believe we will make tremendous success. It is going to take work because, again, it's not just talking about it, but it's really watching everything that we're doing, going above and beyond in terms of recruiting and retaining our employees, and then monitoring the progress over time so we can see which areas are making improvements, which areas are struggling a little bit, and then to find opportunities that will help those that are not achieving their goals actually achieve the goals, so you have my personal commitment on that.

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FEMALE SPEAKER: One of the things that frightens me about the future of higher education is that the Chronicle has said that by the 2030's more than 30 percent of the existing universities will no longer exist

because of money. As a president your role is not only to come up with the vision for today, but the vision for 10 and 20 years down the line because the changes and investments you make today builds toward that future; how do you see yourself doing that?

DR. JESSELL: So, you know, coming from a business background is very, very helpful for -- for anyone making those types of decisions, but particularly for, you know, a president because I can talk not only about the vision of the university, and the vision of the university is going to be the vision that is established by collegial discussions, the development of a strategic plan that is embraced, and endorsed, and promoted by the Board of Trustees. Every plan that I've seen requires resources. Even if we do nothing, we need resources, and we have issues of inflation, we have issues of declining enrollments throughout the country, and we have issues with respect to, you know, personnel, making sure we have the personnel to do it regardless of the dollar, so I'm going to champion for that. I believe that we can make

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very, very good cases for why FIU is a value proposition for the State of Florida. Our students come primarily from South Florida, our students, even if they come from outside of South Florida tend to remain in South Florida because there's no better city than Miami, and so the dollars stay here, so it is a great return on investment.

Additionally, I can use quantitative measures of how we compare not only to our sister institutions in the State of Florida with respect to efficiencies. We really produce student credit hours, we really produce research at a much more effective rate than all of our other institutions in Florida with the exception of one, and nationally we also perform very, very well. We are a very, very efficient university with respect to our ability to deliver on our educational missions, so I think those make compelling arguments with the leaders that are making the decisions.

Additionally we have to be very, very focused on the investments that we're making, and we may have to make some additional tough decisions over time. And a lot of people

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argue, well, we know we have programs with 1 declining enrollments, maybe we should eliminate those. Even if we eliminate those programs, it comes at a cost because you have 4 to phase out, and typically those are not the high cost programs anyway, and they provide a richness of diversity to our curriculum that is very, very important. So we will have to look at some things. We will need to make decisions 10 strategically going forward that are 11 self-sufficient. I had mentioned in comments, 12 and you and I have had this conversation in the 13 past, we need to look at every -- every 14 investment, every decision with the eye toward what is the return on investment, how are we 16 going to fund this investment, and this is 17 something that takes place in business, and society, and government all the time, how are going to pay for it, and if we don't have a good model, we shouldn't be doing it, we 21 shouldn't be leaving it to chance or 2.2 serendipity. So I think that quantitatively 23 you can do it.

> We do need to advocate for more stable and reliable funding models in Florida, and I know

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that this is something that the Board of Governors is now addressing. Many of the planned investments on our current strategic plan were based on the assumption that there would be preeminent funding, that there would be additional funding for performance, that there would be additional funding for X, Y, and Z and those have not materialized, so we can't continue to operate on faulty assumptions, so we need to clean that up a little bit, and we are, and we will. We had to do a, you know, an adjustment this year on funding to the -- to the units to get a balanced budget, that's very, very important. And I am very, very hopeful that our argument for the operational support will be heard by our legislative leadership, and when they see what we do compared to the other institution. Let's face it, having a graduation rate for Pell eligible students that is just slightly better for us than non-Pell students as a whole, that really says something. And when you look at the social mobility rankings -- choice rankings, we're a good bang for the buck. So I think that people will start to listen, people that

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are making the decisions on funding.

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DR. TRELLES: Not to put any pressure on anybody, but there are a couple of microphones available in case anybody would like to ask a question.

FEMALE SPEAKER: President Jessell, in such a huge university with so many undergraduate students, where do you see graduate students fitting? And if you can talk a little bit about the funding as part of that funding model?

DR. JESSELL: Well, graduate students are very, very important for -- for universities, not just from the research assistance they provide to our -- to our faculty, but also, these are the future teachers and researchers, so we absolutely must have an increased supply of graduate students so we can continue to have great faculty educating our students, so it is a very, very important part of the equation. So my discussions with respect to student success were not limited strictly to undergraduate students. I know that there are challenges with graduate students in many ways, and perhaps even in more ways they are more

impacted by the economic conditions of today than our faculty and staff because they are not earning salaries at the same level. You will remember when you had the orientation for the graduate students I came in and addressed them, and I think we talked briefly about that and the need to increase the assistance-ships and stipends for the graduate students. I know that Dr. Hill (phonetic) is working on a plan. We will have to identify the dollars as part of our initiatives either through additional scholarship support, or assistance-ship support, and the like so we can not only attract those graduate students, but retain those graduate students in one of the country's least affordable areas to live.

MALE SPEAKER: Dr. Jessell, as you know the Chaplain School has set a very successful partnership with a school in Asia for a long time and we've graduated over 3,000 students as of today. Can you share with us your thoughts on the priorities regarding international student recruitment, as well as expansion?

DR. JESSELL: So international student recruitment is very important. It's very, very

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part -- it's very much a part of our middle International students is not only the part of international, but it is a very, very important part of our programs here at FIU. We should be investing in bringing in qualified students from -- from other countries because I believe it really enriches the programs at our institution. The interactions with international students with domestic students is very, very helpful to getting a broader perspective on issues of -- of global significance. You and I have already talked about the Chaplain School expanding the number of students that we have. I know that you are committed to doing that. I'm very much supportive of that and including international students as part of that expansion.

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MALE SPEAKER: Good morning, Dr. Jessell, and congratulations. Could you talk briefly about the university's role in the creative and cultural economies of South Florida?

DR. JESSELL: Absolutely. So we -- we talk about STEM all the time, and I don't believe I use STEM specifically in my comments because I'm a firm believer in STEAM. We hear

time and time again from employers that in many cases our students have outstanding technical skills, but they don't have a lot of the soft skills, the communication skills, and that's where having a STEAM mentality is very, very important. A few years ago when we were presenting at the Board of Governors for the SIPA II building, and this is at a time when everyone was talking about STEM, if it is not a STEM request, don't really talk about it, and we had other universities talking about STEM buildings, and STEM programs, and STEM degrees, and every president, this is an exaggeration, was saying, if I can get the funding for this building, I can produce 10,000 STEM degrees, and it went on and on, and finally it was President Rosenberg's (phonetic) time to present and we were presenting SIPA II and he looks at me and says, I'm presenting SIPA II, Of course, that was the university's not STEM. priority, you know, not mine, but we actually prepared a presentation that talked about the importance about non-STEM degrees and how those enrich the educational experiences of our students, and I very strategically put in some

very, very good examples. For example, I 1 mentioned that Dr. Phillip Frost, a noted 3 scientist, entrepreneur, and inventor, was a French literature major. Do we believe that 4 5 French literature reduced his ability to be successful or did not contribute to his 6 achievements? And so by the way, Dean Colson (phonetic), Chair of the Board of Governors, 8 9 was a history major at Princeton. Is he all 10 the worse because he was in a soft field? 11 think the answer was, no, these degrees are 12 important. As I was talking I could see the 13 BOG members nodding, and of course our project 14 was approved. So we are very much committed to 15 I dabble in piano a little bit, I'm 16 terrible, but even the -- the translation of 17 piano to mathematics is real, and it helps you 18 understand some of those more quantitative 19 topics. 20 DR. TRELLES: Well, I'll share that I do 21 not play the piano.

DR. JESSELL: Pardon?

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DR. TRELLES: I do not play the piano.

DR. JESSELL: Oh.

DR. TRELLES: But I did have a degree from

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-- a degree in English from FIU, so I'm right there with you. But I did want to share that we have received some questions from our participants who are joining us through Zoom.

One in particular wants to know a little bit more about your views on the culture that we have at FIU, retaining employees, and really how that's going to impact our retention of our students as well?

DR. JESSELL: No, I agree, and that -- if you remember is, the first point that I made under the discussion of sustainable resources. We have to retain the outstanding faculty and staff that we have, and we have to hire the best faculty and staff that we possibly can. The reality is, you cannot hire new employees at anything less than market. We know we have compression issues with existing employees, but with new employees, you have to hire them at market. And what's going to happen is, if we don't do something to help our existing faculty and staff, we are going to lose them, and it's going to cost us more to bring in someone else. So that is a very, very high priority. We have over \$22 million, you know, in the request.

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are trying to make some internal decisions where we have the opportunities to achieve some efficiencies through consolidations. So you may -- you may want to know we were able to take, as an example, our division of engagement this year and redirect those resources to other areas, so we're still performing those functions, but we're not doing it under a division of engagement, and we were able to use those savings at the administrative level to reduce the budget reduction that we had to have this year. So we may have opportunities to do more efficiency types of initiatives, and then redirect those savings into faculty and staff, you know, salaries. But I agree, we -- we cannot lose our best and brightest, and those are always the ones that are leaving first. know that there's a delta where they're not going to leave because they are so committed to It's not always about -- about the money. FIU. But when the gap gets so large, then we're going to have a very, very significant problems, and in many -- many programs and departments we have started to see that already.

DR. TRELLES: We have one more question from our audience.

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FEMALE SPEAKER: All right. My question will be the last question. So as you know, libraries is the very -- at the very center of the student campus life. Students probably spend most of their academic life inside that building, and we're severely short of student studying space, and graduate student study carrels, and as we know, the library building is not purely serving the function of the libraries, we have many offices in that building. Anyway, in order for us to improve the situation some initial decisions would have to be made, and in other cases we need investment again to enhance and alter the spaces for the student use. For instance, a recent UF project took \$6 million to change the entire science library and increase 700 seats of studying space, and 20 something graduate study carrels. Will you be willing to work with us to make that enhancement for FIU students?

DR. JESSELL: Well, the answer is, yes, I am always willing to work with the libraries.

I had mentioned that I was a first gen. 1 student, so I actually worked in college, and I 3 worked at the Strozier Library at FSU. I worked in government documents which was a very 4 5 -- not heavily utilized, so it worked out 6 pretty well because I could do a lot of studying. And the library of today is not like the library back -- back then. Now libraries 8 9 are places of -- of engagement, places of 10 interaction, so we want to see that vibrancy. 11 We have made a lot of improvements in the 12 library over the years, it looks, you know, 13 fantastic, I see a lot of study spaces, so we 14 perhaps need to, you know, make more of those. 15 So I'm happy to work with you and Dr. Behar 16 (phonetic) as we put together our capital plans 17 and plans for carry forward expenditures where 18 we can make those types of investments to do 19 what is best for our, you know, our students.

Also, I think there might be opportunities, again, I don't know the specifics, there might be opportunities for us to relocate some -- some of the remaining stacks. I know we've already taken down a lot of the stacks. Just about everything is

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digital, and as digital becomes even more and more, you know, prevalent, particularly with the historical journals and documents that will free up, you know, a lot of -- a lot of space in the library, so there may be additional opportunities there. We could get some off-site storage in the short term that would free up some space. But, yes, let's certainly work on that.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

DR. TRELLES: Well, Dr. Jessell, I wanted to provide you the opportunity if you had any last words as we wrap up our first community listening session with our finalist.

DR. JESSELL: Well, all I can say is, you know, I am very honored to be in this position. If I am selected as the next president, you have my promise that I will work as hard as I possibly can to support you, our students, our faculty, and our staff. I am a real Panther, so go Panthers, and paws up.

DR. TRELLES: Thank you. And thank you for joining us today in person, through Zoom, and webcast as we have an opportunity to hear from our presidential finalist candidate, Dr.

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	19:30 00
1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	THE STATE OF FLORIDA )
4	COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE )
5	
6	I, Daisy L. Amador, a Court Reporter, do
7	hereby certify that I was authorized to and did
8	report the proceedings, had and taken at the Graham
9	Center Ballrooms, Florida International University,
10	11200 S.W. 8th Street, Miami, Florida, 33199, on
11	October 11th, 2022, for the Presidential Candidate
12	Community Sessions: FIU Leadership; that the
13	foregoing pages, numbered 1 to 36, inclusive,
14	constitute a true and complete record of my notes.
15	
16	I further certify that I am not an
17	attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
18	related to any of the parties, nor financially
19	interested in the action.
20	
21	Dated this 12th day of October, 2022.
22	
23	Lang L Gueath
24	Daisy L. Amador
	Notary Public for the State of Florida
25	Commission No.: HH175493
	Expires: 10/17/2025

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