Florida Atlantic University President Mary Jane Saunders and Board Chair Carla Klein of Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach are pleased to announce that a productive meeting of both organizations took place on April 23, 2012. The meeting included representatives of the governing boards and executive leadership of both organizations.

The meeting enabled both organizations to share their concerns over the recent posting of mock “eviction notices” in residence halls on FAU’s Boca Raton campus. As it has publicly done previously, FAU’s leadership acknowledged that the postings violated university policies and should not have been approved. FAU and Hillel agree that university residence halls must be safe and welcoming environments for students from all walks of life to live, learn, and grow. Part of that environment includes providing students a place of repose, free from unwelcome intrusions. The inappropriate postings conflicted with this mission. FAU has taken proactive steps to ensure better adherence to its policies in the future.

The FAU and Hillel leadership also discussed their enduring and important relationship. The leadership of both organizations recognized their common mission to serve the students of Florida Atlantic University. They discussed several ways in which that mission could be met, especially through the promotion of respectful campus discourse, expressed in appropriate forums and exercised in an appropriate manner. Teaching students how to communicate even strongly opposing ideas in a civil manner is fundamentally important to both FAU and Hillel. The leadership of both organizations committed to one another their mutual cooperation in achieving these goals through expanded joint programming and activities.

“Florida Atlantic University prides itself on its relationship with all community and student organizations, including that with Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach,” said Saunders. “We look forward to continuing this wonderful relationship through future programming and activities for both our students and the surrounding communities.”

“Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach is fortunate to have a home base at FAU,” said Klein. “We, as the campus home for Jewish university students, will continue to advocate for and educate about the Jewish democratic State of Israel, and to oppose any effort to demonize or delegitimize it. We look forward to collaborating with the university to provide students with opportunities to fully experience the cultural diversity offered on a college campus.”

FAU and Hillel look forward to continuing their valued relationship. Together they welcome the opportunity to foster a positive and inclusive environment for all FAU students, and they invite the campus and broader community to join them.