

Florida Atlantic University

Regulation 2.006

Institutes and Centers

(1) Purpose. [Florida Board of Governors \(BOG\) Regulation 10.015](#) sets forth the criteria and guidelines for both State of Florida and state university Institutes and Centers. It requires each state university to develop and publish clearly defined guidelines consistent with BOG policies for establishing, operating, evaluating, reviewing and disbanding university institutes and centers. This regulation responds to this requirement and provides university-wide guidelines for the establishment, operation, and review of university institutes and centers. This regulation is designed to facilitate the formation of new centers or institutes and to assist in the management and review of those existing. The Provost is hereby authorized to grant authorization for the development and implementation of Florida Atlantic University institutes and centers. The “Exclusions” section of BOG Regulation 10.015 identifies other units that may be referred to as “Institutes” or “Centers”, whose purpose is to provide services to the university community (for example, day care centers, teaching or learning centers, computer centers). Such units are not to be considered “centers” for the purposes of this Regulation.

(2) Definitions.

A. An “institute” is an organized research, service, and/or educational unit established on a continuing basis primarily for the coordination and promotion of interests organized around a broad subject area. Normally, the breadth of projects and programs transcends department, school, college, or even campus boundaries. In general, an institute will have a much broader mission and a wider set of goals and objectives than a center, and usually will involve a greater interdisciplinary and inter-institutional involvement of faculty.

B. A “center” is analogous to an institute but is more limited in scope. A center is (i) an organized unit that serves a specific purpose within an institute, or (ii) a unit that provides specialized capabilities to further research, or enhance instruction or the delivery of services.

C. A “University Institute or Center” is an institute or center that has been formally recognized as a Florida Atlantic University Institute or Center pursuant to this regulation. It is important to distinguish between formally established institutes and centers and other units of a less formal nature. In order to request approval and formal designation as an institute or center, a unit must have two or more members, one of whom must be a faculty member who is formally assigned to and compensated for work in the institute or center. A unit that has not been approved to use the formal designation “institute” or “center” should not represent itself as such.

D. A “State of Florida Institute or Center” is an entity with a statewide mission that may include two or more State universities, established to coordinate inter-

institutional research, service and teaching across the State University System. Those interested in State of Florida Institutes or Centers should see the BOG Regulation 10.015.

(3) Guidelines. Procedures for establishing, operating, evaluating, reviewing, and disbanding University institutes and centers, in accordance with BOG criteria and this regulation, are recommended for review by the Vice President for Research and approval by the Provost. They are published on the Division of Research web site. These guidelines pertain to both existing and future University institutes and centers.

A. Establishment. Those seeking to establish institutes or centers at FAU are advised first to meet with the leadership (Director, Department Chair, Dean) of the host unit in which the new organization will be based in order to review the information required, the proposal format, and the approval process. All submissions will be made through the respective chairs, directors, deans or campus executive officers, as appropriate, to the Vice President for Research. The Vice President for Research will review all proposals and make a recommendation for their disposition to the Provost, who will make the final decision. More detailed procedures can be found at <http://www.fau.edu/research/centers.php>. A copy of an approved new university institute or center proposal containing basic descriptive contact and fiscal information shall be submitted to the BOG's Office of Academic and Student Affairs. In cases where more than one university is participating, a host university is designated to handle reporting and evaluation of the institute or center.

B. Operations and oversight. Day-to-day management and leadership of an institute or center fall to its Director. It is the Director's responsibility to ensure that the institute or center conducts research, provides services where appropriate, and otherwise meets its goals, objectives and mission. Oversight of an institute or center shall be determined by the Provost and may be by the institute or center's next-level of authority (Department Chair, Dean, or Provost as appropriate).

C. Evaluation and Review. Institutes or centers are evaluated and reviewed according to the schedule and procedures of the unit in which they are embedded (the department, college, or other university entity), but no less than every seven (7) years. At a minimum, all evaluations and reviews shall include those items listed in BOG Regulation 10.015(5) (d) (3), as well as the following:

1. A determination of the institute or center's progress against defined goals and objectives within the context of the institute or center's mission, the participating university missions, and the current BOG's Strategic Plan;
2. An assessment of the return on investment of state dollars, if applicable;
3. The need for continuation of the institute or center;
4. Possible changes in mission or organizational structure;
5. Budget reduction or expansion;

6. Recommendations for change of classification (State of Florida, Infrastructural, or University institute or center), if applicable; and
7. Recommendations for status change (active, inactive, terminated), if applicable.

D. Dissolution. Disbanding a University institute or center involves closing out the budget for the unit, transferring budget lines within the unit to the appropriate place(s), and disbursing equipment and facilities as appropriate. These tasks will be the responsibility of the Department Chair or Dean, as appropriate for the organization in question. The college or other unit within which the institute or center is located must notify the Provost of the dissolution. The requirements in BOG Regulation 10.015(6) shall be followed, including notifying the Office of Academic and Student Affairs in the BOG Office.

E. Change of status. BOG Regulation 10.015 distinguishes between “State” institutes and centers and “University” institutes and centers. All institutes and centers at Florida Atlantic University shall first be established as “University” organizations. Their elevation to “State” status shall be governed by procedures specified by the BOG through Regulation 10.015 and other applicable authorities.

Specific Authority: Florida Board of Governors Resolution dated January 7, 2003; Florida Board of Governors Regulation 10.015. History: New 7-22-09.