



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

Item: AS: A-M

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Subject: Roll Call and Approval of February 4, 2025 Minutes

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

INITIATE ROLL CALL TO DOCUMENT MEMBER PARTICIPATION, ENSURE QUORUM, AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2025 MEETING.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs. Sherry Murphy, Chair _____

Mr. Jon Harrison, Vice Chair _____

Mr. Stefan Andjelkovic _____

Dr. Kimberly Dunn _____

Mr. Scott McCleneghen _____

Mr. Piero Bussani (ex-officio) _____

PARTICIPATING BOT MEMBERS

Mr. Shaun Davis _____

Mr. Robert Flippo _____

Mr. Brad Levine _____

Mr. Pablo Paez _____

Mr. Jonathan Satter _____

Mrs. Linda Stoch _____

Ms. Tina Vidal-Duart _____



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Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2025

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs Vice Chair Kim Dunn called the meeting to order and requested a rollcall to confirm a quorum. In addition to Vice Chair Kim Dunn, the following committee members were present: Trustee Piero Bussani (ex-officio), Trustee Stefan Andjelkovic, Trustee Shaun Davis, Trustee Robert Flipppo, Trustee John Harrison, Trustee Brad Levine, Trustee Scott McCleneghen, Trustee Sherry Murphy, Trustee Pablo Paez, Trustee Jonathan Satter, Trustee Tina Vidal-Duart and Trustee Linda Stoch.

AS: A-M Roll Call and Approval of Minutes from the November 19, 2024, Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

The minutes from the November 19, 2024 meeting was presented for approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes as distributed. **The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

AS: A-1 Approval to Seek Accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission

Dr. Russ Ivy, Interim Provost, requested authorization to seek approval from the United States Department of Education to apply for membership to the Higher Learning Commission.

In 2020, federal regulations removed geographic restrictions on higher education accreditation, allowing institutions to seek accreditation from any federally recognized accreditor. Following this change, Florida law in 2022 required institutions to pursue accreditation from a different agency after completing their decennial reaffirmation with the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Florida Atlantic University (FAU) had its accreditation reaffirmed by SACSCOC in December 2024 for a ten-year period, initiating the process of seeking a new accreditor. The next steps involve FAU's Board of Trustees approving the decision, followed by a formal request to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) to demonstrate the voluntary nature and benefits of the change. Upon USDE approval, FAU will begin the application process with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), one of five agencies recommended by the Florida Board of Governors.

The benefits in switching to HLC include:

1. HLC membership includes more public institutions in the American Association of Universities (AAU) and ranked in the top of the U.S. News and World Report than any other accrediting body, which expands the peer reviewers evaluating FAU
2. HLC has a strong shared governance process in which member institutions actively engage in the development and vetting of policies and standards



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3. HLC has the administrative infrastructure to accept new members, has offered accreditation workshops and meetings for potential member institutions, and has provided resources to facilitate the process

The timeline for changing institutional accreditors typically takes about two years, including one year for U.S. Department of Education (USDE) approval and another year for review by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). During this period, the institution must comply with both SACSCOC and HLC policies and standards.

AS: I-1 Graduate Medical Education (GME) Reports and Charles E. Schmidt College Of Medicine Updates

Dr. Lewis Nelson, Dean of the Schmidt College of Medicine, reported that Florida Atlantic University's Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine sponsors ACGME-accredited graduate medical education programs, with oversight provided by a Designated Institutional Official (DIO) and a Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC). The ACGME requires an Annual Institutional Review (AIR) to assess institutional performance, with a summary report presented to the FAU Board of Trustees. In the 2023-2024 review, the DIO highlighted accreditation status updates, survey results from residents and faculty, and institutional action plans addressing areas such as professionalism, well-being, and quality improvement. While most programs maintained continued accreditation, Neurology was placed on warning status, and the closed Deep Brain Stimulation program had a citation. Institutional action plans focus on faculty development, policy revisions, and research mentoring. The Board's receipt of this report is for informational purposes only, and ACGME will be notified accordingly.