



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

Item: SP: A-M

STRATEGIC PLANNING and INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Subject: Roll Call and Approval of June 4, 2024 Minutes

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

INITIATE ROLL CALL TO DOCUMENT MEMBER PARTICIPATION, ENSURE QUORUM, AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2024 MEETING.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Jonathan Satter, Chair	_____
Mr. Scott McCleneghen, Vice Chair	_____
Dr. Kimberly Dunn	_____
Mr. Brad Levine	_____
Ms. Tina Vidal-Duart	_____
Mr. Piero Bussani (ex-officio)	_____
Mrs. Sherry Murphy (ex-officio)	_____

PARTICIPATING BOT MEMBERS

Mr. Stefan Andjelkovic	_____
Mr. Shaun Davis	_____
Mr. Robert Flippo	_____
Mr. Jon Harrison	_____
Mr. Pablo Paez	_____
Mrs. Linda Stoch	_____



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Board of Trustees

Strategic Planning and Initiatives Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2024

Strategic Planning and Initiatives Committee Chair Sherry Murphy called the meeting to order and requested a roll call to confirm a quorum. In addition to Chair Sherry Murphy, the following committee members were present: Vice Chair Earnie Ellison, Trustee Piero Bussani (ex-officio), Trustee Kimberly Dunn, Trustee Barbara Feingold (ex-officio), Trustee Brad Levine, Trustee Elycia Morris, Trustee Stefan Andjelkovic, Trustee Daniel Cane, Trustee Shaun Davis, Trustee Robert Flippo, Trustee Pablo Paez and Trustee Linda Stoch.

SP: A-M: Roll Call and Approval of Minutes for April 16, 2024 Meeting

The minutes from the April 16, 2024 meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes as distributed. **The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

SP: A-1: Approval of the FAU 2025-2026 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan-Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Request

Dr. Stacy Volnick, President, requested the approval of the Florida Atlantic University 2025-26 Five Year Capital Improvement Plan - Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request.

Each year, the Florida Board of Governors mandates that each university submits its Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request. For the 2025-26 fiscal year, Florida Atlantic University has outlined several projects in its submission. These projects fall into three categories: Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Projects under CIP2A, Capital Improvement Trust Fund (CITF) Projects categorized as CIP2B, and Back of Bill (BOB) Projects which necessitate Legislative Approval for construction, acquisition, and financing by the university or its Direct Support Organization under CIP2C. The deadline set by the Board of Governors for this year's submission is July 1, 2024.

A motion is made and seconded to approve the request. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

SP: A-2: Approval of FY 2025-26 Legislative Budget Request

- a. **Ryan Britton, Executive Director, Government Relations, requested approval of a legislative budget request (LBR) to seek funding for "Leveling Up: FAU's National Model for Institutional Transformation In Education & Research."**



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Each year, Florida Atlantic University (FAU) submits its operational Legislative Budget Request (LBR) to the State University System's Board of Governors (BOG) ahead of the state legislative session. The current request, titled "Leveling Up: FAU's National Model for Institutional Transformation in Education and Research," seeks \$46.5 million in recurring and nonrecurring funds. This funding is intended to support various initiatives crucial to FAU's growth and enhancement, including expanding the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, developing R1 research infrastructure, and providing compensation support.

FAU highlights its recent transformative achievements, such as doubling graduation rates, tripling research expenditures, and achieving record student retention rates and philanthropic fundraising. These successes have garnered national recognition and placed FAU among the Top 100 in multiple national rankings. As FAU prepares to sunset its current strategic plan, "The Race to Excellence," it views the Leveling Up proposal as pivotal in bridging to its next phase of institutional development, ensuring continuity in growth and research excellence.

The LBR outlines four primary goals:

1. Investing in instructional and research faculty to support enrollment growth.
2. Expanding the medical school to strengthen health programs.
3. Developing a robust support structure to maintain top-tier research status.
4. Establishing a comprehensive compensation program to address evolving challenges.

FAU's Board of Trustees must approve the LBR before submission to the BOG, a requirement set by the BOG since 2019. The submission deadline for this year is July 31, 2024, ensuring timely consideration and review before the legislative session.

A motion is made and seconded to approve the request. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

b. Ryan Britton, Executive Director, Government Relations, requested approval of the FY2025-26 Legislative Budget Request to seek funding for the "FAU Laboratory Schools Institute."

Each year, State University System (SUS) institutions, including Florida Atlantic University (FAU), must submit their operational Legislative Budget Requests (LBR) to the Board of Governors (BOG) in preparation for the upcoming state legislative session. FAU has classified its request for the FAU Laboratory Schools Institute as a university-unique budget item, seeking \$2 million in recurring funds. These funds will support various activities including curriculum development, guest speakers, staffing, and data analytics.



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A.D. Henderson University School and Florida Atlantic University High School, part of the FAU Laboratory Schools, have consistently achieved recognition as National Blue Ribbon Awardees by the US Department of Education and as Florida Schools of Excellence by the Florida Department of Education. Niche rankings place these schools highly, with the elementary program ranked third nationally, the middle school fifth, and the high school thirty-first. Notably, FAU High School uniquely allows students to earn both a high school diploma and a bachelor's degree simultaneously, a model that has garnered national attention.

Beyond FAU Laboratory Schools, recent international assessments like the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) highlight significant challenges in the US education system, ranking the country 18th in science and 34th in math worldwide. The 2023 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) indicated troubling declines in reading and math proficiency among US students, underscoring a critical need for educational reform. For instance, the "Nation's Report Card" revealed deficiencies in US history and civics knowledge, emphasizing low proficiency levels among students.

To address these issues, FAU proposes establishing the FAU Laboratory Schools Institute to lead educational innovation in Florida and nationwide. The institute aims to:

- Develop leadership training programs for educators.
- Expand professional development in science and mathematics.
- Enhance the impact of the Cane Institute for Advanced Technologies.
- Scale the A.D. Henderson University School and FAU High School Research Initiative to engage one million future K-12 student researchers.
- Implement a program focused on American Exceptionalism in the curriculum.

Since 2019, the BOG requires university Boards of Trustees to approve their university-unique LBRs and submit them by July 31, 2024. This year, FAU's proposal seeks to advance its educational model and address systemic challenges through targeted funding and innovative programming.

A motion is made and seconded to approve the request. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

SP: A-3: Approval of the Ground Lease Extension for the St. Lucie County School Board's Marine and Oceanographic Academy at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at FAU



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Dr. Gregg Fields, Vice President of Research, requested the approval of the Ground Lease Extension for the St. Lucie County School Board's Marine and Oceanographic Academy at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at FAU.

The proposal recommends that the full Board approve a five-year extension to an existing Ground Lease between Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (FAU Harbor Branch) and the St. Lucie County School Board. This extension would facilitate the continued operations of the School District's Marine and Oceanographic Academy (MOA) at FAU Harbor Branch, with the new term beginning on July 1, 2024.

The MOA is a collaborative educational initiative between FAU Harbor Branch and the School District, situated on the FAU Harbor Branch campus. It serves as a specialized academy within Fort Pierce Westwood High School, focusing on marine science education integrated into a practical oceanographic research environment. FAU Harbor Branch staff work closely with MOA faculty to develop and deliver a curriculum that includes rigorous science courses, leveraging the institute's resources and expertise.

Under the terms of the extended Ground Lease, the School District will maintain responsibility for all operational costs associated with the MOA, including rent, utilities, and maintenance. The lease extension also ensures compliance with security and access requirements, safeguarding the school grounds and facilities. The collaborative relationship between FAU Harbor Branch scientists and MOA educators will continue to enrich the curriculum with professional and technical expertise.

Implementation of the lease extension is scheduled to commence on July 1, 2024, reinforcing FAU's strategic goals by enhancing community engagement in St. Lucie County, promoting marine and coastal education, and nurturing future generations of ocean scientists and engineers.

A motion is made and seconded to approve the request. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. **The meeting was adjourned.**