

# Florida Atlantic University

## **Regulation 2.006**

## **Institutes and Centers**

(1) Purpose. Florida Board of Governors (BOG) Regulations set forth the criteria and guidelines for both State of Florida and state university Institutes and Centers. Each state university board of trustees (BOT) must adopt policies consistent with BOG criteria for establishing, operating, evaluating, reviewing and disbanding university institutes and centers. This regulation responds to this requirement. The Provost is hereby authorized to grant authorization for the development and implementation of Florida Atlantic University institutes and centers. 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), 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. 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. A University Institute or Center includes Centers of Excellence established by the Florida legislature.

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. State of Florida institutes and centers must be approved by the BOG and are otherwise governed by BOG Regulation 10.015.

(3) Policies & Reporting.

A. Establishment. Those seeking to establish University institutes or centers at FAU are advised first to meet with the leadership (e.g., 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 applicable 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. Within thirty (30) days of receiving approval to establish a new university institute or center, a notice of establishment shall be submitted to the BOG's Office of Academic and Student Affairs in accordance with BOG Regulation 10.015. In cases where more than one university is participating, the host university is designated to handle reporting and evaluation of the institute or center.

B. Operations. Day-to-day management and leadership of an institute or center falls 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.

C. Annual Reporting. No later than December 1 of each year, expenditure information for the prior fiscal year shall be provided to the BOG office using the reporting templates approved by the BOG Chancellor. Annual reports shall be approved by the University BOT prior to submission.

D. Evaluations, Reviews, and Recommendations. All State of Florida Institutes and Centers shall be reviewed at least every five (5) years by the host institution. All University Institutes and Centers will be evaluated and reviewed at least every seven (7) years. At a minimum, all evaluations and reviews shall include those items listed in BOG Regulation 10.015, 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 mission(s), 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 or University institute or center), if applicable; and
7. Recommendations for status change (active, inactive, terminated), if applicable.

Upon completion, the Provost may require that a University Institute or Center be disbanded or take remedial or other action that best benefits the University Institute or

Center or the University as a whole. The summary of the formal review and evaluation must be presented to the BOT and the University must certify that the evaluation/review contained all of the required components using the template provided by the BOG Chancellor. A copy of the summary must be submitted to the BOG office within 30 days after the BOT review.

E. Disbanding an Institute or Center. Recommendations to disband a University institute or center shall include provisions for closing out the budget for the unit, transferring budget lines, and disbursing equipment and facilities, as applicable and appropriate. These tasks will be the responsibility of the host unit's Dean, Director, Chair, or executive officer. The college or other unit within which the institute or center is located must notify the Provost of the proposed dissolution at least ninety (90) days prior to the proposed date of dissolution. Final authority to approve, modify, or deny the requested dissolution lies with the Provost. The requirements in BOG Regulation 10.015(6) shall be followed, including notifying the Office of Academic and Student Affairs in the BOG Office.

F. Further Guidelines. More detailed procedures for establishing, operating, evaluating, reviewing, and disbanding University institutes and centers, in accordance with BOG criteria and this regulation, may be developed by the Vice President for Research and then forwarded to the Provost for review and approval. The approved procedures will be published [on](#) the Division of Research website.

*Specific Authority: Florida Board of Governors Resolution dated January 7, 2003; Florida Board of Governors Regulation 10.015. History: New 7-22-09; amended 6-4-19; 02-14-23.*