



Item: VI. b.d.

**DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019**

**SUBJECT: APPROVE NAMING OF UNIVERSITY ELEMENTS**

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### **PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Approve naming of space within the FAU S.E. Wimberly Library on the Boca Raton campus to be used by the Machine Perception and Cognitive Robotics Lab and named the "Rubin and Cindy Gruber Sandbox".

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **Donation:**

Rubin and Cindy Gruber are donating Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for a recognition opportunity of space within the FAU S.E. Wimberly Library on the Boca Raton campus to be used by the Machine Perception and Cognitive Robotics Lab.

#### **Gift Purpose:**

The gift will be used for renovation of room LY103 located on the first floor of the FAU Wimberly Library on the Boca Raton campus. The renovated area will house the Machine Perception and Cognitive Robotics Lab, an initiative of the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. To this end, the renovation project includes the creation of a 3,400 square-foot resource center, designed to cater to students from across the University where they can witness and engage with the fast advancing field of artificial intelligence study.

#### **Donor's Background and Commitment to Florida Atlantic University:**

A self-described serial entrepreneur, Rubin Gruber has founded many telecommunications, data communications, and digital networking companies over a span of more than 40 years.

In 2001 Mr. Gruber was named one of *Tech's 100 Highest Rollers* by Forbes Magazine. According to Forbes, "Gruber decided 2 years after college that he would never again work for anyone but himself. In 1997 he jumped when his cousin suggested he pursue his passion for Internet voice packetization. He made a phone call, and within minutes he had his first funding for Sonus Networks. Good call: The stock surged 900% after its May 2000 IPO." Sonus Networks became a leading supplier of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) infrastructure. VOIP is the technology that allows for the delivery of voice communications over the Internet.

Rubin Gruber has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from McGill University; a master's degree in mathematics from Wayne State University; and in 2014 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science from McGill University.

Cindy Gruber is one of 50 Boston-area women in the Hestia Fund, a giving circle of women who pool their funds to provide grants to inner city after school programs. She is also a trustee, along with her husband, of the Gruber Family Foundation.

Rubin and Cindy Gruber have demonstrated an expanding commitment to the mission, vision, and objectives of the University as evidenced by the creation and generous and ongoing funding of the Rubin and Cindy Gruber Endowment Fund that was initially funded in May 2018. This fund invests in the multiple facets that lead to student success at Florida Atlantic University, such as scholarships, summer research projects, and other activities, as well as by this most recent gift commitment to name the Rubin and Cindy Gruber Sandbox in the SE Wimberly Library on the Boca Raton campus. In addition to their financial support, the Grubers spend a considerable amount of time mentoring FAU students.

The Grubers have residences in Concord, Massachusetts, and Highland Beach, Florida.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The gift will pay for the majority of costs associated with the renovation and creation of the center.

### **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE**

Installation of signage: TBD upon completion of current renovations at the FAU S.E. Wimberly Library on the Boca Raton campus.

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**Presented by: Danita D. Nias**

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