



**Full Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 12, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.
SPECIAL FULL BOARD - VIRTUAL MEETING**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Abdol Moabery convened the special full board meeting of the Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees with the following members participating:

Mr. Brent Burns, Mr. Shaun Davis, Mr. Brad Levine, Mrs. Mary Beth McDonald, Ms. Elycia Morris, Ms. Celine Persaud, Mr. Robert Rubin, Mr. Bob Stilley, and Dr. Kevin Wagner

The following university officials participated: Dr. John Kelly, University President, Ms. Stacy Volnick, VP, Administrative Affairs, Dr. Michele Hawkins, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Dr. Larry Faerman, Acting Vice President, Student Affairs & Enrollment Management, and Mr. Andrew LaPlant, Board of Trustees Operations.

Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

II. Public Comments

No public comments.

III. Action Item: Approval of the FAU Fall 2020 Semester Reopening Plan

Chair Moabery asked President Kelly to give some opening remarks. Dr. Kelly said the Board of Governors asked each state university to put together a comprehensive plan that minimizes risk for the fall and maximizes the educational opportunities. He thanked Stacy Volnick for her work on this plan. The plan in front of the trustees is condensed from the 300-400 page original.

Chair Moabery then asked Stacy Volnick to present the plan. Ms. Volnick said there was an entire team behind this plan. The first piece is the executive summary which covers the entire university, including students, faculty, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors at all FAU campuses, sites and facilities. The plan is fluid and will change. It is based on the information we have today.

The university's Emergency Operations Team, which consists of FAU employees from many areas of the university, was activated and has been formulating planning foundations in regards to the reopening of campus. The purpose of the plan is to define a systematic approach for reopening and resuming operations in the wake of COVID-19. There are four key planning documents in the reopening plan: the (1) health & safety, (2) cleaning & disinfection, (3) on-campus quarantine & isolation, and (4) virus testing, contact tracking & notification plans.

One of the planning assumptions is a phased reopening of operations, which provides the ability to re-implement mitigation measures should case clusters, community transmission, or new waves of the virus occur. The safety, security, and well-being of the university community will remain of the utmost importance during this process.

Ms. Volnick then went over the concept of operations, which are five pillars: (1) a healthy campus environment, (2) a healthy community environment, (3) virus testing, (4) contact tracking & notification, and (5) academic program delivery. These phases, like the State of Florida's reopening plan, include mitigation strategies that the University may implement in a controlled manner to reduce the opportunity for a resurgence in COVID-19 impacts.

Ms. Volnick gave the benchmarks as a framework to evaluate current conditions. The criteria include symptoms, cases and the university. She gave a snapshot of the fall semester that includes hybrid academic instruction and work arrangements, among other guidelines. The plan is predicated for the entire university to follow the recommendations that have been set forth.

Ms. Volnick went over the provisions for a safe environment under the Healthy Campus Environment pillar. They include integration of the university's COVID-19 Health & Safety Plan, designated messaging and training that support facial coverings, hand washing and physical distancing, creating a shift in campus culture with an emphasis on personal responsibility, publicity

campaign materials that focus on care, compassion and community responsibility, and training for all students, faculty and staff on the requirements and expectations for the new health and safety procedures.

On-campus housing will have strategies to enhance residents' health and safety while on campus. Some of these are coordination of move-in periods to promote physical distancing, a modified guest and visitation policy to limit guests within residence facilities, and emphasizing cleaning protocols and focus on high-touch surfaces.

Remote work for employees will remain in place. They will have a work plan with the employee and the supervisor. FAU started a leave donation program, vulnerable employee population program and a talent share program. Decision about intercollegiate competitions will come later and be made in conjunction with national and regional athletic conferences.

Dining service employees will go through a screening program including temperature checks. Face coverings will be required for all employees, incorporate physical distancing, use disposable service items, tables and chairs strategically placed, use of sneeze guards and updated protocols for cashiers conducting transactions.

Some community protective measures the university will emphasize include good hand hygiene, physical distancing, controls and barriers, and face coverings. The university is also following a systematic approach to cleaning and disinfection practices, common area disinfection, and compliance & enforcement.

The Healthy Community Environment pillar is a partnership between our external partners and the university. It includes participation in community response, emergency coordination, points of contacts on shared facilities, communication protocols, and enforcement.

For the COVID-19 Virus Testing pillar, Ms. Volnick noted this was a very important part of our return to campus. This has been a specific focus of the Board of Governors. She said FAU has been testing students since the first week of March. The university has a testing/tracking and case management program that is extremely robust. It will be scaled up for the fall semester.

There will be a self-assessment, student testing program and employee testing program. Ms. Volnick went over a chart that described the different categories of testing.

The next pillar is Contact Tracking & Notification. Ms Volnick said only the Department of Health (DOH) can do contact tracing. The DOH traces COVID-positive cases. Student Health Services and HR track presumptive-positive cases. FAU has procured contact tracking software. Student Health Services has established a case & contact tracking team for student-related cases. HR's employee relations team is responsible for contact tracking and notification for employee related cases.

There are 112 residence hall spaces in Boca Raton and 12 on the Jupiter campus as part of the on-campus quarantine & isolation plan. There will be separate facilities for medium and high risk cases.

Ms. Volnick asked Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Michele Hawkins, to go over the next pillar, Academic Program Delivery. Dr. Hawkins said it covers three areas, course format, classroom flow, and labs.

FAU is taking a very conservative approach to the reopening. The top priority is safety for students, faculty and staff. We have to remain flexible as the situation changes. FAU is prioritizing courses that includes labs that have on-campus engagement. We have reduced class sizes to 25-percent capacity in rooms with moveable furniture, and 20-percent for rooms with non-moveable furniture.

The next issue is managing classroom flow. We are requiring social distancing measures that are structured for minimal contact. Labs are probably are most difficult area to mitigate and keep our students safe. The university will have a strict social distancing plan, with personal protective equipment.

Dr. Hawkins noted they have been so impressed with the quick transition from the faculty, staff and students. She went over some statistics that told of all the training and equipment that went into the effort to teach remotely since March.

Ms. Volnick then opened the meeting for questions. Trustee Levine asked about the interaction between the students and the plan. Ms. Volnick responded that our previous student body president and our current one have made campus safety as a priority. FAU is coming up with packages to give to the students when they get to campus. Trustee Persaud followed that we want to make this something the students want to do, not have to do. She likes the idea of incorporating branding on the mask and other items that we will give to the students.

Trustee Morris suggested seeing if there is an opportunity to have the data in real-time, for example, locations cleaned. Trustee Rubin thanked Ms. Volnick on a great job. Assuming we have a positivity rate that is similar to the county, which is 7-percent right now, with 30,000 students, how do we house those 2,100 who might be positive? She responded that with contact tracking, we will be ahead of the curve. We have more rooms isolated than most of our sister institutions. With quarantining, the positivity rate will be less. It's critical to get the tests back quickly. If we do have an outbreak in one of the dorms, we are prepared to scale back. Acting Vice President for Student Affairs, Larry Faerman, noted that tracking comes in especially with our off-campus students who are coming in. Trustee Rubin also noted that he heard that the faculty might be fighting back on some of these plans. What would that mean for the university? Dr. Hawkins responded that the faculty who are resistant have questions and health concerns about returning amid COVID. She believes that is a communication issue that needs to be addressed. She feels the faculty have been mostly cooperative.

Trustee Levine asked about high-risk faculty, how is the university looking at that? Ms. Volnick responded that the vulnerable employee program also extends to faculty and has been rolled out to them. Vulnerable status could be age, COVID impacted medical condition, or reside with someone who is vulnerable.

Trustee Stilley thanked Ms. Volnick. He asked about the hand-washing stations. Ms. Volnick said that was included in the plan in regards to personal mitigation efforts. Every communication that has come out from the president regarding COVID always ends with a reinforcement with what those strategies are. She added that they will be looking at students coming from "hot-spots" and internationally.

Trustee Davis said this was a very comprehensive plan and he is glad they have kept it flexible, to adapt to changing circumstances going forward.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the FAU Fall 2020 Semester Reopening Plan. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Adjournment

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

DRAFT