



STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA

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July 11, 2023

Mr. Brad Levine
Chair, Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees
800 Fairway Drive
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Dear Chair Levine:

My letter sent on July 7, 2023, raised concerns regarding anomalies alleged in the FAU presidential search. Based on the allegations presented to the Board of Governors, we recommended that the FAU search be suspended to “provide an opportunity for [Board staff] to obtain the facts around these concerns and other potential anomalies.” Since that time, we have received correspondence from FAU on July 8, 2023 and July 10, 2023, which briefly addressed the claims raised in my letter and sought to resume your search this week.

However, in your letter dated July 8, 2023, with respect to a candidate being asked if they were queer, you acknowledge that “[FAU] learned, for the first time, that AGB Search sent [such] a questionnaire to the candidates for research purposes,” and was not authorized to do so by FAU. You agreed that “such a questionnaire is [un]warranted for a State University search in Florida.” In your letter from July 10, 2023, you echoed this sentiment stating, “[FAU was] not aware that [your] consultants automatically sent a voluntary questionnaire to each applicant . . . Had [AGB] advised [you] in advance of this practice, [FAU] would have reviewed their questions to ensure their appropriateness in Florida.”

Based upon these preliminary admissions which underscore our concern raised in our July 7 letter questioning “whether the search firm withheld material information from the search committee,” along with the additional anomalies that remain to be investigated, it is important that we engage in a deliberative review of the search process to ascertain the facts.

The investigation will be led by Board of Governors Inspector General Julie Leftheris, who will be in contact with FAU. The investigation will be thorough, fair, and a determination will not be reached in haste. The search process will remain suspended until the conclusion of our investigation. We look forward to your continued cooperation and engagement in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ray Rodriguez
Chancellor
State University System of Florida