



OFFICIAL STATEMENT

It has come to our attention that an announcement was made on August 21, 2025, naming Mr. William McCormick, Jr. as the 15th president of Florida Memorial University. Let us be absolutely clear: this presidency was obtained illegally. The meeting that facilitated this alleged vote was never properly noticed to the Board, the matter of selecting a permanent president was never mentioned to the full Board, and the action taken is in direct violation of our bylaws and the established processes for presidential selection.

As the duly seated Board of Trustees, we do not acknowledge nor recognize Mr. McCormick as permanent president of this university. Any claim to the contrary is illegitimate, unlawful, and a blatant disregard for the governance standards that protect the integrity of this institution.

While we are not surprised, this is the culmination of a well-thought-out coup that began when Mr. McCormick stepped down as board chair to assume the role of interim president under the guise of providing stability. Since that time, he and a faction of the Board have consistently pressured us to remove the interim title. When the entire Board refused to acquiesce, they resorted to these rogue and illegal measures.

We made every effort to resolve these differences internally and to move forward in unity, but those efforts were met with obstruction. Instead, a rogue faction chose to abandon the bylaws and act outside of their authority. And here we are, facing the painful consequences of their reckless actions.

This is not just a procedural misstep; this is a painful and shameful moment in the history of Florida Memorial University. The very soul of this beloved institution is being dragged through the mud by those who disregard its laws and traditions.

Many members of this Board are proud alumni who walked these halls, sat in these classrooms, and had their lives transformed by the education they received here. Collectively, all of us have witnessed FMU's power to shape destinies and build futures in the lives of students, graduates, and the community.

And that is why this betrayal cuts so deep. Students deserve leadership that is honest and lawful. Faculty and staff deserve governance that is stable and true. The community, which has looked to Florida Memorial for over a century as a beacon of hope and opportunity, deserves far better than this reckless spectacle.

Florida Memorial University is bigger than any one person, bigger than any rogue faction, and bigger than this moment of crisis. And we will not allow its legacy to be destroyed.

Let us be clear: we will not sit quietly while this university is destabilized by unlawful and reckless actions. As Trustees, we remain committed to protecting the future of Florida Memorial University and to restoring integrity to its governance.

Dr. Brandon K. Dumas
Chairman, Board of Trustees

With the support of the undersigned members of the Florida Memorial University Board of Trustees:

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Mrs. Deneshea Phelps Owens, *Treasurer*

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