

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS, STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW TYPE I, II, OR III CAMPUS, OR
SPECIAL PURPOSE CENTER**

Florida International University
University Submitting Proposal

0056
Site ID

14955 SW 214 Street, Miami, FL 33187
Physical Address of Educational Site
(US Site: address, city, state, zip) (International site: street
address, number, city, county/province, country)

Possum Trot
Proposed Name of Educational Site

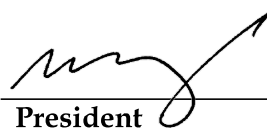
Special Purpose Center
Proposed Type of Educational Site
(Type I, II, or III Campus, or Special Purpose Center)

Fall, 2020
Proposed Opening Date
(First term student instruction will be offered at the site)

The submission of this proposal constitutes a commitment by the university that, if the proposal is approved, the necessary financial resources and the criteria for establishing or relocating an educational site have been met prior to the initiation of the first course offerings.

October 28, 2020

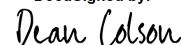
Date Approved by the University Board of Trustees



President

October 28, 2020
Date


DocuSigned by:



10/28/2020

Signature of Chair, Board of Trustees

Date



Vice President for Academic Affairs

October 28, 2020
Date

Under Projected Enrollment, provide headcount (HC) and full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment estimates by level from Table 1 in Appendix A for Years 1 and 5, or the Final Year of implementation if it exceeds five. Under Projected Costs, provide revenues and expenses from Table 2 and capital project costs from Table 3 for Years 1 and 5, or the Final Year if it exceeds five.

Projected Site Enrollment (from Table 1)			
		HC	FTE
Undergraduate	Year 1	0	0
	Year 5	0	0
Graduate	Year 1	0	0
	Year 5	0	0

Projected Costs (from Tables 3 and 4)				
Operational				
	E&G Funding	Other (Contracts & Grants, Auxiliary)	Capital Projects	Total Cost
Year 1	0	42,244	58,500	100,744
Year 2	0	33,360	0	33,360
Year 3	0	42,897	0	42,897
Year 4	0	38,601	0	38,601
Year 5	0	45,958	0	45,958

Note: This outline and the questions pertaining to each section must be reproduced within the body of the proposal to ensure that all sections have been satisfactorily addressed. Tables 1 through 4 are to be

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included as Appendix A and not reproduced within the body of the proposals because this often causes errors in the automatic calculations.

I. Introduction

A. Provide a short description of the project and rationale for the request to establish an educational site, including the main purpose for this site (research, instruction, administration, student services, etc.).

Global food security is arguably the critical challenge of the 21st century. In a mere 30 years, the world's population is projected to rise from 7 billion to over 9 billion. Successful mitigation of hunger and the concomitant ability to sustainably and equitably meet nutritional needs, necessitate innovative solutions and paradigmatic shifts in terms of human society and the ecosystem.

The National Research Council (New Biology for 21st Century Challenges) stresses that New Biology approaches are vital to address current world challenges of sustaining food production, protecting the natural environment, and maintaining renewable energy systems. As a result, U.S. Department of Agriculture and USAID funded research continue to prioritize food security, food safety, climate change, bioenergy, and overall global sustainability and resilience.

Possum Trot (PT), an initiative of the Department of Earth and Environment and the International Center of Tropical Botany (ICTB), both housed within the College of Arts, Sciences & Education (CASE), is designed precisely to respond to the urgent needs of the time. At its core, Possum Trot will support cutting-edge research and innovative education in a range of disciplines, including agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, tropical biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, economics, marketing and business. Addressing food security necessitates a cross-disciplinary approach and in this regard Possum Trot will serve as an integral part of both the FIU Agroecology Program and the International Center for Tropical Botany, and forge active synergies with the Biomolecular Sciences Institute. Overall, Possum Trot will be a facility focused on: improving the agricultural productivity and agro-economy of Miami-Dade County, addressing broader issues of sustainable food production, preliminary tropical plant screening of local plants to determine or discover new pharmacologically active substances in mixtures of natural products, training farm and food workers, developing new agro products, and providing technical support for the food and agricultural businesses and related stakeholders. Its distinctive topography will also allow research programs to be centered around three unique aspects of the property: (i) the high biodiversity of the natural areas and its management; (ii) the existing living collections, particularly, derived natural products, including that of assembling, maintaining, and screening tropical plant extracts for medicinal application, and, their contribution to understanding of benefits of alternative production systems; and (iii) the ability to develop new plantings of novel varieties and species of tropical plants of economic importance, and the potential to plant these in an experimental design to test hypotheses of relationships between aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem services including crop yields and biogeochemical cycles.

As FIU fulfills our mandate to improve the lives and livelihoods of our diverse South Florida communities Possum Trot will place FIU researchers and students within the heart of the Redland agricultural community, enhancing outreach to farmers, specifically small growers and

new farmers, to provide them with knowledge and skills to keep local agriculture profitable, competitive, and sustainable. To this end, Possum Trot will deliver applied research and practical training in sustainable agriculture, soil science, horticulture, and demonstration plots. The Possum Trot vision is to create a grove-to-table experience through creating a regular calendar of public events to promote agro-tourism and showcase the historical and current food presentations, as well as new and value-added food products.

It is precisely this sense of duty to community and futurity which has made possible this Possum Trot initiative. Possum Trot is a 29.24-acre tropical fruit grove located at the northeast intersection of SW 216 Street and SW 152 Avenue in the Redland agricultural area of South Miami-Dade County. Possum Trot is a commercially productive grove producing multiple important tropical specialty fruits. Collaborative land use agreements have been developed and are in place. The land is being gifted to FIU from its current owner Mr. Robert F. Barnum.

The parcel of land will be used as an important teaching element of the FIU Agroecology program housed in the College of Arts, Sciences and Education (CASE). The Agroecology program integrates science-based education, research and outreach focusing on the interface of agriculture, natural ecosystems, and urban development. Agroecology at FIU is an innovative, science-based curricular program that lets students focus on issues in agriculture at the farm, community and regional landscape level. Students are exposed to an intellectual learning environment and to agricultural agencies and research institutions such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, along with other research and educational organizations.

At Possum Trot, students will be able to explore spatial agricultural issues including regional water allocation conflicts, urban-rural conflicts, community foodsheds, and geospatial analysis of agricultural resources and systems impacts. Students will actively participate in the ecological principles of food forests as sustainable agroecosystems and highlight the socioeconomic benefits of integrating forest gardening into the South Florida Landscape. An important part of the program is understanding fruit production and sales.

This grove contains an extensive and unique collection of tropical fruit, spice, and timber trees collected over the last thirty years by Mr. Robert Barnum and his family. It has about 350 tropical and sub-tropical plant species including medicinal, aromatics, and edibles. The living collection includes more than 100 varieties of mangos, 50 varieties of jackfruit, 10 varieties of avocado, 20 varieties of carambola and several varieties of tropical plants that show medicinal promise. The assemblage is unique because of the breadth of their taxonomic and genetic diversity, and because of the unique management system akin to permaculture that has been employed. Accordingly, opportunities exist (i) to conduct research comparing the management system to more conventionally managed properties in the region; and (ii) to investigate links between the diversity (taxonomic and especially genetic) and economic and ecological value of the collections, in terms of fruit production, or biogeochemical cycling (e.g., carbon storage, nutrient retention) and potency of active compounds. There also exist many opportunities to use the living collections as sources of tissue for natural products research on fibers, oils, latex and secondary chemicals. And there are continued opportunities for both teaching and research in horticulture on seed banking, propagation techniques and the establishment of a tropical plants natural products library. Certain plant species on this farm also have the potential for developing new commercially viable food and bio-based products.

In addition, the site has the opportunity for natural area management. There have been several initial surveys of native plants and insects across the property. These censuses could be standardized and used as baseline for regular sampling that would represent temporal monitoring of diversity and composition and support. There are also opportunities for plant restoration projects, subsequent to inventories. These might include both invasive species control and conservation translocations of threatened taxa.

A major value of the site will integrate existing collections and information to design complementary plantings with sufficient replication to respond to pressing economic and ecological questions. Indeed, an agroforestry experiment with biodiversity would be very timely, especially in our unique climatic and economic setting (see Verheyen et al. 2015 in appendix). An excellent opportunity exists for establishing trials of important species that might replace certain staples and therefore buffer economically against changing markets, and ecologically against changes in climate and pests.

The specific objectives of Possum Trot are:

- Provide a field site for agricultural and ecological research aligned with the Agroecology Program, International Center of Tropical Botany, Biomolecular Sciences Institute and the College of Arts, Sciences & Education as a whole.
- Provide scientifically rigorous training opportunities in tropical and sub-tropical agriculture and environmental sciences with practical and field-based training.
- Support an increase in the number of STEM graduates who are ready to join the agricultural and scientific workforce.
- Deliver high quality research that addresses the needs of tropical and sub-tropical growers and responds to the challenges of balancing food security with ecological and social sustainability.
- Align the International Center of Tropical Botany with Biomolecular Sciences Institute to develop and maintain a Tropical Plants Natural Products Library to identify active fractions with biological testing relevant for diseases.
- Develop innovative and sustainable products and practices through research and development that can be commercialized for applications in south Florida and the tropics (e.g., soil-water-nutrient management, integrated pest management, new propagation techniques, biochar, biofuels).
- Foster collaboration between the Agroecology Program, the International Center of Tropical Botany and the Food and Beverage Science Program in the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management to develop and guide the development of value added and alternative products through farmers/ entrepreneurs

- Explore the potential for developing commercial bio-based products including biofuels, beverages, and industrial products.
- Preserve and further enhance, as part of the International Center for Tropical Botany and the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research global network for plant genetic resource conservation, the Possum Trot's rare tropical and sub-tropical fruit species collection.
- Provide training in farming and in farm business management practices to new and socially disadvantaged farmers in South Florida.
- Promote scientific awareness of the tropical agro-biodiversity among college and K-12 students, area farmers, urban residents and national and international visitors interested in agricultural and biological conservation.
- Explore the potential for improving food production in urban and peri-urban areas.
- Develop local food security responses as a contribution to local and regional economic development and environmental resilience in Miami Dade County and South Florida.
- Contribute to the economic growth and social improvement of Miami Dade's agricultural production areas.

B. Provide a short narrative assessment of how the establishment of the educational site supports the university mission and the goals incorporated into the university strategic plan and Board of Governors State University System Strategic Plan.

FIU's Next Horizon 2025 Strategic Plan, includes, as its third pillar, the university's commitment to "Assure Responsible Stewardship, by "strengthen[ing] our commitment to ensuring a sustainable future for our institution and the South Florida community." Possum Trot will advance the University's mission by focusing on environmental resilience and sustainability, by facilitating state-of-the-art research and by increasing external funding. Since this initiative will bring together faculty from several FIU departments and Centers in the College of Arts, Sciences & Education, College of Architecture and the Arts, and the Chaplin College of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Possum Trot can truly be viewed as a tangible outcome of the university-wide priorities outlined in the Next Horizon 2025 Strategic Plan.

The Florida Board of Governors has emphasized strengthening university programs that seek to train students in job-oriented science and technology fields. Possum Trot will help to strengthen comprehensive agroecology, tropical agro-biodiversity conservation and biomolecular sciences programs that will increase the number of job-oriented degrees in the field of agriculture, environmental and natural resource sciences, biological conservation, and biotechnology.

The proposed facility will directly serve goals identified in the 2012-2025 State University System's Board of Governors Strategic Plan (see Table B).

Table B: Possum Trot's Contribution to the SUS Strategic Plan

State University System of Florida Goals	Possum Trot Response
Strengthen the quality and reputation of academic programs and universities	A key resource for Agroecology, the International Center of Tropical Botany and opportunity for the Biomolecular Sciences Institute that will convene a strong group of researchers and will enhance the quality and reputation of their work by coordinating and supporting their research. A key part of the Possum Trot work will be to build local, regional and global partnerships for research and training.
Strengthen the quality and reputation of scholarship, research and innovation	Possum Trot will be a venue for working with collaborative partners and will strengthen the reputation of south Florida as a place in which to study tropical sustainable agriculture and medicinals.
Increase degree productivity and program efficiency	Possum Trot will expand FIU's ability to offer engaging research and teaching opportunities to foster the progress of our students.
Increase the number of degrees awarded in STEM and other areas of strategic emphasis	Possum Trot will be a major venue for STEM initiatives using agriculture and ecology.
Increase research and commercialization activity	Agroecology, the International Center of Tropical Botany, Biomolecular Sciences Institute and the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management will work with farming industry partners and with agricultural communities to increase opportunities for translational research and the commercialization of research.
Increase collaboration and external support for research activity	Possum Trot will be a hub of an extensive network of local and national supporting partner institutions and agencies.

Table B: Possum Trot's Contribution to the SUS Strategic Plan

State University System of Florida Goals	Possum Trot Response
Increase levels of community and business engagement	Possum Trot will work with our farming and community education partners (e.g. County Extension Offices, U.S. Department of Agriculture research stations, area Tropical Botanical Gardens, etc.) thereby increasing our visibility in the community and increase the opportunities for students to learn, do applied research and obtain financial support.

Possum Trot will build a strong network of collaborating institutions and agencies. Those that are currently in FIU Agroecology's network are in bold. Others in the list are potential collaborating institutes and centers in Florida:

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture Subtropical Horticultural Research Station**
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture Invasive Plant Species Laboratory**
- **University of Florida Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC)**
- **Miami Dade Fruit and Spice Park**
- **MacArthur Agroecology Research Center**
- **Miami Dade Farm Bureau**
- **Coalition of Florida Farmworkers Alliance**
- **Florida Nurseries and Plant Growers Association**
- **Miami-Dade Agro-tourism Visitors Center**
- **Miami-Dade County School District**
- **Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science**
- **Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**
- **The Kampong, National Tropical Botanical Garden**
- **Montgomery Botanical Center**

Potential national and global partners include:

- **Breadfruit Institute, National Tropical Botanical Garden, Hawaii**
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville, MD**
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture- National Laboratory for Agriculture and Environment, Ames, IA**
- **Iowa State University, Ames, IA**
- **Center for Renewable Carbon, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN**
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture-Coastal Plains Soil and Water Laboratory, Florence, SC**
- **Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research**
- **National University for Agriculture, Catacamas, Honduras**
- **Agroecology Program, ISARA-Lyon, France**
- **Center for Tropical Agricultural Research and Education, Costa Rica**
- **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture, mission offices in various**

countries

- **University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, India**
 - **University of Agricultural Sciences, Coimbatore, India**
- C. Provide a timetable of critical benchmarks that must be met for full implementation which can be used to monitor progress (planning, design, funding, construction, etc.). The timetable should also include ensuring appropriate accreditation of the proposed educational site and any proposed programs requiring specialized accreditation, if required.**

Approval by FIU Board of Trustees	October 28, 2020
Approval by Board of Governors	November 5, 2020
Transfer of Gift and other assets to FIU	November 13, 2020
Infrastructure Improvements (Fencing)	November 13, 2020
License of land to farmer tenant	November 20, 2020

The five-year implementation plan for establishing Possum Trot consists of:

- Phase I - Year 1 is the execution of a gift agreement, conveyance of land title, execution of License Agreement.

Year 1 – Starting in Fall 2020, Possum Trot and the Agroecology Program of the Earth and Environment Department will begin to establish a collaboration in South Florida to assist veteran and socially disadvantaged farmers and nursery growers (VSD-FNG) in order to enhance the sustainability of their farm operations. The long-term goal is to equip existing farmers (less than ten years), farm workers and prospective veterans who want to start their own farm operations.

Fall 2020 – Introduce Possum Trot to the community as a research and outreach facility with a series of public events.

- Phase II (Years 2 and 3) Continue offering to VSD-FNG technical, managerial, marketing, legal, safety and regulatory training through a combination of workshops, on-farm demonstration, farm apprenticeship, and one-on-one consulting. Increase the participation in U.S. Department of Agriculture benefit and assistance programs, direct loans, crop insurance, economic development, and traditional extension programs. Increase the knowledge and participation of eligible VSD-FNG in the U.S. Department of Agriculture class action lawsuits and claims process and to develop and disseminate web-based and print material on different farming-related (financial, land, equipment and other farm inventory), and government assistance-related information. Collaboration on joint projects with the International Center of Tropical Botany and BSI –Tropical Plants Natural Products Library continue.

In Year 3 Researchers from participating FIU departments including Earth and Environment and Biology will conduct their research at Possum Trot. All FIU faculty members will retain their current research and teaching assignments. We will explore

synergies and efficiencies with the existing International Center of Tropical Botany /Kampong staff.

- Phase III (Year 4 and subsequent years)
Possum Trot's strong collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, FNGLA and other partners will bring a return on investment that demonstrates FIU's national and international preeminence in agroecology, leading to increased academic productivity, increased FIU brand strength, and a diversified funding base for agroecology. Possum Trot will be operated to ensure it runs at a net profit or worst case as a breakeven. Any/all profits generated will be used to further improve the property, offer additional workshop and educational offerings and will also act as a reserve for any required maintenance, i.e. irrigation, fencing, etc.

Accreditation is not needed to establish Possum Trot at this time.

II. Need and Demand Assessment

- A. Provide a detailed assessment of unmet local student demand for access to academic programs in the vicinity of the proposed educational site. Complete Table 1 in Appendix A to enrollment projections for unduplicated student headcount and FTE by degree program and level.**

Not applicable; instructional activities will not take place.

- B. Provide a detailed data-driven assessment that describes unmet local and regional workforce need for programs and services to be offered at the proposed educational site. In the appendices, provide letters of support from the local community and business interests.**

Not applicable; instructional activities will not take place.

III. Academic Programs and Courses

- A. Provide a list of the degree programs, partial programs, or college credit certificates and courses to be offered at the proposed educational site by year five or the Final Year of implementation if different, using Table 1 in Appendix A. The proposed degree programs must be identified by six-digit CIP Code, by program title, and degree level.**

Not applicable; instructional activities will not take place.

- B. Provide an explanation as to how the proposed degree programs and courses will be affiliated with similar programs offered on the central campus and/or other educational sites of the university. Will they be independent or an extension of existing programs?**

Not applicable; instructional activities will not take place.

- C. Provide an assessment, supported with data, that justifies any duplication of degree programs and services that might already be provided by an existing state university or Florida College System campus in the vicinity of the proposed educational site. Describe any discussions that have taken place with affected colleges and universities and provide letters of support or letters of concern in the appendices.**

Not applicable; instructional activities will not take place.

IV. Administration and Student Support Services

- A. Describe the administrative structure of the proposed educational site and how it will relate to the central administration of the university. Include any necessary funding in the financial plan outlined in Table 2 of Appendix A.**

Possum Trot will be administratively housed in the Department of Earth and Environment, School of Environment Arts and Society (SEAS) within the College of Arts, Sciences and Education.

- B. Describe how the proposed site will provide student services, either onsite or online from the central university campus.**

Not applicable; instructional activities will not take place.

- C. Provide a plan to provide library services and other instructional resources that will support the proposed programs. Include any necessary funding in the financial plan outlined in Table 2 of Appendix A.**

Not applicable; instructional activities will not take place.

V. Budget and Facilities

- A. Provide a projected operational budget using Table 2 in Appendix A that includes revenues and expenses out to year five, or the final year of implementation if different. Provide a narrative that explains the cost assumptions reflected in Table 2. Include the operational costs on the proposal cover page.

APPENDIX A

TABLE 2

SUMMARY FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS TO FULL IMPLEMENTATION

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
General Operations Revenues	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Carry Forward from Prior Year	\$0	\$0	\$140	\$283	\$428
General Revenue/Lottery					
State Allocations (GR/Lottery)	0	0	0	0	0
Tuition/Tuition Differential and Fees					
Tuition (Matriculation)	0	0	0	0	0
Tuition (Differential, 70% UG Support)	0	0	0	0	0
Out of State Student Tuition Fees	0	0	0	0	0
Research Trust Funds (by title)					
Federal Research Grants Trust Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Aid and Academic Related Fees					
Financial Aid	0	0	0	0	0
Tuition (Differential, 30% Financial Aid)	0	0	0	0	0
Out of State Financial Aid	0	0	0	0	0
Student Technology Fee	0	0	0	0	0
Student Distance Learning Fee	0	0	0	0	0
Other Revenues					
License Income	7,263	7,605	7,687	7,739	7,968
Workshops	7,455	41,524	60,212	50,321	69,207
Total Revenues	\$14,718	\$49,129	\$67,899	\$58,061	\$77,175

General Operations Expenses					
Compensation and Employee Benefits	\$8,490	\$14,274	\$16,591	\$15,391	\$16,799
Shared Services	2,290	3,773	5,359	4,510	6,047
Incremental Shared and/or Contractual Services Costs					
Library Services/e-Collections					
Contractual Services	22,639	3,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Repairs & Maintenance	65,600	2,000	2,040	2,081	2,122
Leases					
Financial Aid, Scholarships, Stipends					
Equipment					
Workshops Expenses	1,725	10,583	14,907	12,619	16,989
Total Expenses	100,744	33,630	42,897	38,601	45,958
Operating Net Revenues Over Expenses	(\$86,027)	\$15,500	\$25,002	\$19,460	\$31,217

FIU has been utilizing the land as an auxiliary enterprise operation under an agreement with the owner. Once the gift of land is received, FIU will generate auxiliary funds to cover the cost of maintaining Possum Trot. The two main sources of auxiliary revenue

will be from a licensing of the land for farm operations and from the delivery of non-credit workshops. FIU will license the use of the land out to an outside party to operate and manage a fruit, vegetable and horticultural farm operation to produce plants, fruit, vegetables and other products for sale to visitors to the farm, at farmers' markets and via direct distribution to other vendors or resellers. The Licensee will in addition, allow the use of the premises by FIU faculty, staff, students, researchers and associates as a research site for Agroecology, Botany, the International Center of Tropical Botany, and any other discipline or project as deemed appropriate by FIU as well as use of the premises as an educational site. Due to an initial investment to secure the property (fencing), total expenses during the startup period will be \$100,744 and stabilize at \$45,958. Net revenues by year 5 from the workshops and the licensing agreement will offset startup expenses and years 1 through 5 operating costs.

- B. Use Table 3 in Appendix A, to identify each facility or facilities required to establish the proposed educational site, and any additional facilities that will be required once the site has reached its expected size and enrollments. Include capital facility costs on the proposal cover page.**

There are no additional facilities needed.

- C. Describe ownership of the new location and provide documentation of ownership or lease agreements, to include any special clauses, easements, or deed restrictions. If the property is a gift, provide the gift agreement. Please provide information on the type of ownership if the site is leased or owned (if leased please provide information on the duration of the lease and the entity that owns the lease). If the site is joint-use, please provide the name of the other entity in the joint agreement as well as the total number of students this site will serve from year 1 through year 5.**

The property is being gifted to FIU. As part of the gift agreement, FIU agrees to preserve the property and to recognize and preserve the agricultural and tropical botany tradition of the Donor's family and to preserve the rich agricultural tradition of South Miami-Dade represented in Homestead and the Redlands. There are no encumbrances on the property.

- D. Are the facilities owned or leased by the University?**

(X) Owned (upon transfer of title) () Leased

VI. Addendum for International Campuses and Special Purpose Centers

If the proposed site is international, include a copy of any MOU or other agreements related to the site as an appendix

(X) The University certifies that all requirements of BOG Regulation 8.009(3)(f) have been met.

Possum Trot Special Purpose Center

Summary and Responses

On October 28, 2020, Florida International University's Board of Trustees voted to approve Possum Trot as a Special Purpose Center. The land for Possum Trot is being gifted to Florida International University (FIU) by the current owner, Mr. Robert F. Barnum. Pursuant to Board of Governors Regulation 8.009, FIU must present their request to the Board of Governors for approval. If approved, Possum Trot will open in fall 2020. The proposal to establish a special purpose center is included in your meeting documents and was jointly reviewed by Academic Affairs, Budget, and Facilities staff.

A special purpose center is a unit of a university, apart from the main campus, that provides certain special, clearly defined programs or services, such as research or public service, and reflects a relatively permanent commitment by a university for the foreseeable future. The facility must be university owned, leased, or jointly used with another public institution. Special purpose centers typically do not offer instructional programs or courses leading to a postsecondary degree.

Possum Trot will support cutting-edge research and innovative education in various disciplines, including agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, tropical biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, economics, marketing, and business. The special purpose center will be an important teaching element for FIU's Agroecology program, delivering applied research and practical training in sustainable agriculture, soil science, horticulture, and demonstration plots. Possum Trot will be a field site for agricultural and ecological research and support and an increase in the number of STEM graduates ready to join the agricultural and scientific workforce.

The grove contains an extensive and unique collection of tropical fruit, spice, and timber trees collected over the last thirty years by Mr. Barnum and his family. It has nearly 350 tropical and sub-tropical plant species, including medicinal, aromatics, and edibles. The living collection included more than 100 varieties of mangos, 50 varieties of jackfruit, ten varieties of avocado, 20 varieties of carambola, and several varieties of tropical plants that show medicinal promise.

The following are questions that the Board of Governors' staff posed to FIU with their noted responses. The responses were submitted via e-mail by Dr. Howard Holness, Chief of Academic Administration, on October 14, 2020.

Educational Offerings

1. The proposal mentions the potential opportunity for teaching, educational offerings, and an increase in job-oriented degrees. Please explain what degrees, courses, or specific teaching opportunities will occur at this site and to what extent.

As part of the Agroecology program in the Department of Earth and Environment within the College of Arts, Science and Education, students will get to conduct field experience (on-site learning) at Possum Trot. The following courses will incorporate field experiences at Possum Trot into their curricula:

- ❖ Horticulture and Lab – HOS 3012/L
- ❖ Agriculture Colloquium - AGR 3930
- ❖ Integrated Pest Management – IPM 4020
- ❖ Soils and Lab, Sustainable Agriculture – EVR 4592/L
- ❖ Advance Modern Crop Production - EVR 5935
- ❖ Sustainable Farming System – AGR 6251

Adult Learner/Student workshops to be offered on site are:

- ❖ Horticulture Professional Certificate Level I (FNGLA)
- ❖ Beekeeping
- ❖ International Workshop on Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture
- ❖ Food Certification

Partnerships and Land Transfer

2. Will FIU be partnering with any SUS institutions as part of Possum Trot's "extensive network?" If so, have any MOUs been created? Are MOUs in place for the specific sites referenced in the proposal?

Many of our faculty conduct research and collaborate with colleagues across the SUS, including the University of Florida's Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC), which is in the same area as Possum Trot. Currently there are no MOU's in place specific to Possum Trot.

3. When will the land gift be transferred to FIU, or has the transfer already occurred?

The land will be transferred on or around November 13, 2020

Budgetary

4. What is the revenue source for the workshops that FIU plans to sponsor through this center?

The revenue source will be Auxiliary income in the form of fees from participants in these non-credit workshops.

5. What are the ongoing expenses?

Landscape and parking space maintenance.

6. What is the income source for expenditures?

License fees for the use of Parcel A

7. Please explain the \$36,761 annual expenditure.

The projected costs of this project have been revised to reflect additional elements requested by the Florida International University Board of Trustees after submission to the Board of Governors. All numbers in the application have been revised to reflect this change including the \$36,761 reflected above.

Timeline

8. Please submit a revised timeline of critical benchmarks.

Approval by FIU Board of Trustees	October 28, 2020
Approval by Board of Governors	November 5, 2020
Transfer of Gift and other assets to FIU	November 13, 2020
Infrastructure Improvements (Fencing)	November 13, 2020
License of land to farmer tenant	November 20, 2020