

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

November 5, 2020

SUBJECT: Request for Classification of the Possum Trot as a Special Purpose Center by Florida International University

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consider approval of the Request for Classification of Possum Trot as a Special Purpose Center by Florida International University.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Florida International University (FIU) requests the approval of Possum Trot as a Special Purpose Center pursuant to Board of Governors Regulation 8.009. 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 college degree.

Possum Trot is a 29.24-acre tropical fruit grove located at the northeast intersection of SW 216 Street and SW 152 Avenue, Miami, Florida. The land is being gifted to FIU by Mr. Robert F. Barnum. The grove, containing an extensive and unique collection of tropical fruit, spice, and timber trees collected by the current owner over a thirty-year period, will be used as a teaching element of FIU's Agroecology program housed in the College of Arts, Sciences and Education. Possum Trot will deliver applied research and practical training in sustainable agriculture, soil science, horticulture, and demonstration plots. Students will be able to explore spatial agricultural issues, including regional water allocation conflicts, urban-rural conflicts, community food sheds, and geospatial analysis of agricultural resources and systems impacts. FIU will not offer instructional programs or courses leading to a college degree at this location.

Effective upon approval from the Board of Governors, Possum Trot will open in fall 2020.

If approved by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, the proposal will come to the Full Board for consideration.

Supporting Documentation Included:

In Academic and Student Affairs
Committee Materials