The Beacon, January 21, 2009

Florida International University

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Firm hired to facilitate search

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

On Jan. 12, the Board of Trustees Presidential Search Committee took one step closer to finding a new University president by choosing an executive search firm. The six-person committee voted unanimously to hire Greenwood/Asher & Associates, Inc. to work with the committee to create a short list of suitable candidates for the presidency.

The firm, which is based in Miramar Beach, Fla., was praised by committee members for its past assistance to the University such as helping to hire faculty for the School of Nursing and for its experience in hiring other university presidents for schools across the nation, namely University of Florida and University of Texas at Austin.

According to an e-mail sent by the committee’s chairman David Parker, the firm is led by former Longwood University President Jan Greenwood and Betty Asher.

“My colleagues on the search committee and I feel that their [Greenwood/Asher] experience and understanding of FIU’s environment, together with their willingness to personally work with us through this process, make them the best fit for us,” Parker said in an e-mail.

The firm was among the top two presented to the committee, after a thorough evaluation process spearheaded by the Request for Proposal Evaluation Committee, headed by Senior Vice President and CFO Vivian Sanchez.

“It became very clear to us that people are not going to find us. We really need to go out and find a search firm that will have an outreach mechanism,” Sanchez said during the meeting.

The evaluation committee contacted 22 executive search firms that had helped place a university president and/or chancellor in the last year.

“We scheduled conference calls to make sure the RFPs were clear,” Sanchez said. “Many if not all the vendors were present – it was very interactive: good questions and answers.”

The evaluation committee later received 12 responses and narrowed the list down to the top four firms, which included R. William Funk and Associates, Isaacs and Miller, Parker Executive Search and Greenwood/Asher.

Each of the four firms was graded thoroughly by a set of criteria, including technical information, the firm’s experience, personnel and the fixed fee proposal. The evaluation further narrowed the pool to Funk and Associates and Greenwood/Asher.

The search committee then spent a good portion of the meeting debating the merits of the two firms. Both had worked with the University in the past and had favorable rates. What separated the two, however, was the fact that William Funk and Associates’ search for a vice president of advancement had come up dry, in what Sanchez described as a more “hands-off approach” to selecting candidates.

FIT FOR A KING

LAUREN AGOSTO
Staff Writer

The 18th Annual Commemorative Breakfast in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. took place on the morning of Jan. 16. The event’s theme was “Stone of Hope” and “How a stone of hope from segregation’s mountain of despair” was the primary message of the event where students, faculty and members of the community gathered to commemorate a man known for his fundamental role in the American civil rights movement.

“Dr. King symbolizes the civil rights movement. He left us a legacy that we have not yet attained, but he certainly laid the foundation for what social and economic justice is,” said Julianne Malveaux, president of Bennett College for Women.

Malveaux, the keynote speaker, delivered a message of hope and faith in the midst of a recession, speaking about the activist work the students, faculty and teacher who sparked our civil rights movement.

Julianne Malveaux president, Bennett College for Women

STONE OF HOPE: The keynote speaker for the 2009 MLK Commemorative breakfast, Julianne Malveaux (left), president of Bennett College for Women, meets Trustee Al Dotson (right).

Dream still alive 45 years later

if we don’t educate students now, who will run America in the next 20 years?

Julianne Malveaux
The Board of Trustees and the American Federation of State reached an agreement on the Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2008-2011. President Modesto A. Maidique announced in an e-mail sent to the University community Jan. 15. Employees hired on or before July 1, 2008, who remained employed through Dec. 23, 2008 and received a “satisfactory” performance on their annual report, are eligible for a 1 percent salary increase for the 2009-10 fiscal year. Also, 0.5 percent of pool of funds has been allocated to give merit bonuses to employees who have demonstrated outstanding performance.

For the 2009-10 year, employees hired on or before July 1, 2009, who will remain employed through Dec. 23, 2009 and receive a “satisfactory” performance on their annual report are eligible for a 1 percent salary increase for the 2009-10 fiscal year. In addition, a 1 percent pool of funds has been allocated to give merit bonuses to employees who have demonstrated outstanding performance.

Any questions should be directed to the Division of Human Resources at (305) 348-7259.

POLICE NOTES

Two men kill store manager, escape police Police are searching for two young men wanted for murder of a Miami-Dade video game store manager during an attempted murder, according to a chdv.com.

Justis “Juice” Martin, 20, and Valery “Val” Pierre-Toussaint, 20, are wanted for the murder of 24-year-old Corey Robinson.

Both men are and a third person, Daniel D. Surin, entered the Multivest Xtreme Video Games store on N.W. 183rd Street shooting and with the intention to rob the store on Aug. 15, 2008. Robinson fired back and Surnin died inside the new Chili’s Too, the franchise

The execution and legislative branch of Student Government Council-University Park, convened in a joint session Jan. 14. The meeting, chaired by A.J. Meyer, SGC-UP president, stated the overall goals of the council for this semester.

Meyer announced an upcoming meeting with Felicia Townsend, director of Business Services, about the new Chili’s Too, the franchise establishment that is to replace Gracie’s Grill.

There were some mixed reactions about removing Gracie’s from that area and replacing it with a Chili’s, but overall, it’s a great opportunity for our student body to know the name of Chili’s and have that on our campus,” Meyer said.

Meyer also warned the body that they would be unavoidable at certain points through the semester.

“There may be times when Paige [LaPointe, vice president]

It “doesn’t feel like a blue state,” Chiszar said.

Florida went to Obama in the election, but the majority of Indiana’s governments went to Republicans.

Chiszar believes that citizens should not lose their energy for the Democratic Party after Obama won the presidential election.

“Local parties need you,” Chiszar said.

He encouraged students to take part in the Miami-Dade Democratic Executive Committee. At the end of the meeting, he handed out membership applications to all students. Chiszar also handed out absentee ballot request forms.

“Democrats need to get in the habit of filling out absentee ballots instead of waiting in lines at the polls,” he said. “Republicans have a lead over the Democrats in absentee ballots.”

Chiszar continued by stating that if anyone fills out an absentee ballot and turns it in, they will receive the mail-in ballot 21 to 28 days prior the election. According to him, voting in local elections is just the starting point in which people can get involved in their local government.

Chiszar stated that he expressed his hope with how Miami-Dade public school teachers, children and parents were coming together to raise the government against budget cuts.

“At the end of the night, it all comes down to taking some action,” Chiszar said.

Currently, the DEC is working on getting signatures on a petition to make it easier for employees to unvote.

He also mentioned that legislators will listen to a group of college students who write letters or rally for fewer budget cuts.

“Chiszar did an excellent job and got me really excited for local politics,” said Savannah Altvater, a member of College Democrats. “I thought it was fascinating,” said co-President of College Democrats Christopher Cabrall. “It was a great opportunity for students to meet one of the most important figures in local Democratic Party politics.”

At 29, B.J. Chiszar is the youngest chairman of any political party in the county.

SGC-UP discusses upcoming projects

The University College Democrats welcomed Demo-cratic B.J. Chiszar to the meeting to speak about the 2008 national elections, local governments and the current budget crisis.

Chiszar, the chairman of the Miami-Dade Democratic Party, started off the night by thanking students for voting in the 2008 presidential election.

At the meeting, held Jan. 15, Chiszar praised the Democratic Party’s huge success in the national 2008 elections. However, he could not praise the fact that the party failed in most of the Florida elections.

“The firm’s approach was more of an external relationship, more than internal approach by working with our committees,” Sanchez said during her presentation.

In the end, after reviewing the criteria used to rate the firms, the search committee moved to employ Greenwood/Asher and Associates.

According to Parker, the total cost for the firm will be $98,000, in addition to incidental expenditure such travel costs.

The University has not provided detailed regards the sources of funding to the Beacon as of press time.

Members of the committee spent the last half of their meeting discussing certain qualifications they would look for in a candidate. Chairman Parker read a draft of desired qualifications that had been previously reviewed, with the idea that the ability to transform the University from a publicly funded one to a publicly supported educational, research, graduate, professional academic excellence and community engagement, among others. A list of qualifications, however, is still being drafted.

Committee members Claudia Puig and Patricia Frost stressed that the new president should have an immense understanding of the diverse community.

“Hispanic” and “international community. [The new president] needs to be able to navigate through this diverse community,” Puig said.

While the committee is about to undertake a nationwide search for qualified candidates, one may be much closer to home: Mark Rosenberg, the current chancellor of the State University System of Florida. Earlier this fall, Rosenberg announced he will step down this February from his post and will return to teaching at FIU. After President Maidique’s resignation on Nov. 14, Rosenberg was quoted in The Miami Herald expressing interest in the position. He has already served as provost, vice president and as acting president for a short period in 1999.

“Rosenberg will go through the search and evaluation process if he is a candidate,” Parker told The Beacon in an e-mail.

“The same will be for any candidate who self-nominates or is nominated by others.”

Michael Bobiul discovered criminal mischief in the Primera Casa main dorm. “We’re forever high” was written with a marker.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue was called to the scene when the main doors to the library caught Judicaelle Michel’s Forever high” was written with a marker.

“We’re not praise the fact that the Miami Herald was printed on a petition to make it easier for local politics to unvote. Michael was advised to go to the Student Health Clinic after refusing aid from Fire Rescue.

Between Jan. 6 and Jan. 10, Jose Placero was victim to vehicle burglary while parked in the Panther Hall parking lot. Along with his PlayStation 3 and PlayStation 5 games were stolen, tallying a $2,000 value.

Currently, the DEC is working on getting signatures on a petition to make it easier for employees to unvote.

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Search for qualified president no easy feat

New Director

Julia Cardenuto

BBC Miami-South Florida

Pamela Duerr

Latin Lead

Suzanne Hurd

Sentry Director

Anthony Iesu

Sentry Editor

Eric Fleming

Pamela Duerr

Victoria Lin

Casey Cast

Paige Garcia

INFORMATION

The Beacon offices Are located in the Student Union, room 215, at the University Park Campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to Advertising Manager at 348-2070. Hacking ad-copy@thebeaconmiami.com. The Beacon is distributed to Miami, FL 33199. Fax numbers are 305-348-7308, Beacon Mail North Campus. 305-319-4721. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Email the editor at calvarious@thebea.co.m. Website: www.thebeaconmiami.com.

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This Editor-in-Chief coordinates the overall production of the Beacon. He or She is a member of the Beacon management team. They are responsible for overseeing the copy, design, and layout of the Beacon.

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Campus Recreation makes splash with pool reopening

ANDREA CRUZ  Staff Writer

After a two-year wait, the University community will finally have access to the new Bay Campus Recreation Aquatics Complex.

“It is not only a milestone for the University,” said Tara Moline, a Recreation Center front desk assistant. “It is the beginning of a new era for the student body.”

To celebrate the completion of the new complex, an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony will take place Jan. 22 in the Aquatics Complex.

We understand there are many more things to accomplish. Our goal is to work to the best of our abilities this semester.”

SGC-BBC

GOODIES: Andrea Reynosa and Evesky “EJ” Joseph assembled free, dry gym passes for the pool inauguration.

Dragonfly provides children free, dry gym passes for the pool inauguration. 2008. 103. 100.a.m. p.m.

According to a press release written by Christina Reddick, BBC aquatics coordinator and Rebecca Dinan, outreach coordinator for the Office of the Vice Provost, the Open House will include free food, prizes and entertainment and will be open to the public.

The new Aquatics Complex will consist of an Olympic-sized swimming pool and a separate diving area. The renovations include a new deck surface, updated diving blocks, landscaping, new paint and furniture.

“Waste Services, Inc., a corporate waste management firm, is responsible for recycling all waste generated by the renovation process,” said Reddick. “There are a few new recycling bins that will be placed around the complex.”

The Aquatics Complex will be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. “It’s a nice relaxing place,” Reddick said. “You can come out and swim, you can use it for a workout, you can relax or you can just socialize.

The complex will host different recreational activities, such as aqua aerobics and scuba diving, as well as swimming classes and lifeguard training courses, all of which will be free to students, according to Bardawil. Those outside the University community may use the Aquatics Complex by paying a $5 fee for a day pass.

We will work to the best of our abilities this semester.”

The council stays busy by focusing on academic issues, improving library policies, executing a beautification project and launching an SGA marketing campaign.

We understand there are many more things to accomplish. Our goal is to work to the best of our abilities this semester.”

The council positions include Education, Honors College, General Undergraduate, Lower Division, Graduate and Hospitality Management.

The council is working to establish its Web site as part of its marketing campaign. An awards committee was established last semester by retired senator at large Michelle Souza. This committee is working to present awards to members on a regular basis.

“Any of our goals are continuous,” said Paul. “We are always looking for ways to make improvements to the University community can do on campus.”

“The complex will be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. “It’s a nice relaxing place,” Reddick said. “You can come out and swim, you can use it for a workout, you can relax or you can just socialize.”

For more information, call (305) 919-5678.
Funding for search firm could be used for other, more beneficial purposes

The Board of Trustees Search Committee announced at a Jan. 12 meeting their plans to hire an executive search firm to aid in the search for the fifth University president.

The firm, Greenwood/Asher and Associates, has aided other private and public universities with the search for presidents, provosts and even deans. The University has announced it will be paying the firm $98,000 in addition to incidental expenditures for its services.

In a time of unprecedented budget shortfalls, The Beacon is not alone in noticing this is the best use of funds, regardless of the source. Sources tell The Beacon that the funding will come from the FIU Foundation, but this information has yet to be verified.

The FIU Foundation is a non-profit corporation that receives and disburses gifts and grants for educational, charitable purposes for the advancement of FIU.

Although significant efforts should be put into the search for a new University president, The Beacon feels that in the midst of a budget crisis, the hiring of a firm seems to be somewhat unnecessary.

Currently, the University has two committees in charge of the efforts; the BOT Search Committee is composed of six members from the BOT and is chaired by David Parker. The Presidential Search Advisory Committee is composed of 25 members of the FIU and South Florida Community. Both will be working in tandem with the FIU president to create a shortlist of candidates.

Including a consulting firm in the search for university presidents is, however, a common practice.

Institutions such as Oklahoma State University, West Virginia University and Eastern Michigan University have, in the past, utilized the services of a professional firm to aid in the search of a new chief executive.

The consulting firm can be used more wisely.

The task of selecting a new president to replace Modesto A. Maidique is, obviously, of high importance and The Beacon feels that students should be able to get more involved and give their input.

In our research to familiarize ourselves with presidential search practices, we came across many interactive Web sites from state and private universities exclusively designed to not only inform students and the community about developments in the search, but also to allow them to participate and offer their ideas and thoughts.

Establishing a Web site will not only aid the search process, but also give students the chance to directly participate in what is possibly the most important decision the University will be making this year.

We’ve all heard the saying, “If it’s too good to be true, then it probably is.” The Madoff scandal proves this lifelong proverb. With over $50 billion lost, investors are suffering, including those of us in Florida. When money from new investors is being used to generate returns for old investors at the huge rate of 14-18 percent every year – even with the economy in the worst down-turn of the depression – there’s something fishy going on and everyone should be suspicious.

Instead of being completely shocked by this scandal, investors should have questioned Madoff’s investment strategies in the first place and wondered how it was possible to get such high returns for so long. Accounting professor Vishal Munsif believes that investors should have questioned these continuous and unusually high returns.

“The amount of returns that Madoff produced especially in a bear market,” Munsif said.

In the early 1920s, Charles Ponzi duped thousands of New England residents into investing in a postage stamp speculation scheme. Ponzi told investors that he could provide a 40 percent return in just 90 days, while compared with banks, the average investor from 1920 to 1930 produced an average return of 2.4 percent.

Any Ponzi scheme could come to an abrupt end when a large number of participants decide to cash out. With the most recent economic downturns, investors were seeking to withdraw over $7 billion from the Madoff fund, money that he simply did not have.

“I’ve no idea why some people are still holding onto the ponzi scheme,” Munsif said

A large percentage of Madoff’s clients reside in South Florida, in and around Palm Beach County. According to NPR.org, “Over the weekend, at least one new multimillion-dollar condon near The Breakers was put on the market by an investor reportedly hit by the fallout.”

This scandal only proves to investors not to take advantage of pleasurable and unreasonably high returns but to look more at the fundamentals. It also teaches us a major lesson for our future investments and reminds the government of its watchdog responsibilities. The Madoff scandal should be something we have considered and prevented had it not been for greed.
Opportunities for charity work abound on campus

We’re all getting into Spring’s full swing and this is the time of year that charity events around campus are thriving. With Dance Marathon and Relay for Life coming up, the Greeks on campus tend to stand out since most of them have philanthropic events of their own. Even if you’re not Greek, there are so many opportunities to get out there and do some good for your community and others.

Dance Marathon is Jan. 31 at noon until 1 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 1 at 1 p.m. You don’t need to be a morale captain – those in charge of keeping dancers up all night – to help out. You can just go to Dance Marathon, which will be taking place at the Recreation Center at University Village. The proceeds from DM will go to Miami Children’s Hospital. You can donate money there or just hang out and learn. Besides dancing, there will be rock climbing, laser tag and many other forms of entertainment for $5. “It is very motivational knowing that you have helped save millions of children’s lives and knowing that they can grow up and say ‘for the kids’,” said Karin Stuart, director of communications for DM. Relay for Life is a little later, on March 6 and 7. The proceeds raised will go toward cancer research. If you know someone who has had, fought or passed away from cancer, you can purchase luminaries to adorn the relay and you walk the luminaries for the loved one who had cancer. The team with the most points will be awarded the Miracle Cup toward the end of the event; individuals are also honored for going above and beyond in fundraising.

Coordinator for the Center for Leadership Services, Mariela Campuzano, is the current advisor for DM and is excited about this year’s event because of her students’ hard work despite the financial and economic adversity faced this year. “These are bountiful, they have given a year up of their college life to do this – it will be a good one because their heart is in the right place,” Campuzano said. Students can register to be a dancer up until the day of the event, which will take place at the Recreation Center on Jan. 31 starting at 12:15 p.m. and ending at 2:15 a.m. Feb. 1 at 1 p.m.

For registration information please visit http://www.kidsmiracles.org/fitdm.
Losing weight is tough, especially for a Hispanic woman like myself who just can’t seem to let go of her arroz con frijoles. Since I embarked on a weight loss journey, I’ve only lost one pound. And that was two weeks ago.

On the other hand, my boyfriend Charlie has already lost 7 pounds. Now, you can only imagine my frustration when he tells me this and my jeans still fit snug.

Granted, no one can exercise for me or monitor the kinds of food I eat, but a little free help from an organization specializing in weight loss might definitely give me the push I so desperately need.

The Hispanic Obesity Prevention and Education Program promotes increased physical activity, healthy nutrition and appropriate food portion sizes among people living in Florida through its Web site: www.hopeflorida.org. The program is not limited to Hispanics.

Here’s how it works. You fill out an evaluation with personal information such as your height, weight and date of birth. Then you input how many times per day or week you consume cereals and starchy vegetables, fruits and vegetables, milk and dairy products, meat and proteins, fats and sugars and water. Last, you input how much time you spend working out. The evaluation results will include your body mass index, a detailed evaluation of your food consumption, and the recommended amount of calories you must consume per day.

My results screamed, “Overweight!” And according to my personal information, physical activity and goals, my meal plan recommended 1,200 calories per day, not the almost 2,000 I was consuming including afternoon and midnight snacks.

Once you know where you stand in terms of nutrition, you have the option to begin the MyDiet program. This, my fellow losers, is the best part. With MyDiet you can create a nutrition plan based on what you want to eat. Trust me, the options are delicious. Foods range from smoothies to curry-style tuna and tomato soup with whole wheat bread.

The plan gives a detailed description on how to prepare each meal and includes nutrition facts for them. It also gives you substitute options in case you prefer fish over pork.

The exercise plan allows you to design your own routine with your select activities and frequency of exercise. What’s best is that the plan comes with exercise videos created by personal trainers.

Your personal plan allows you to track your progress week by week.

MLK breakfast inspires award winners, attendees

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King’s whole legacy.”

Nowell was also the winner of the 2009 Faculty/Staff Service Award for exemplifying the goals and ideals of King.

Afiya Mathews, a junior, recited a message for the occasion entitled “On the Wings of God.”

“This whole experience was just awesome; the speaker was phenomenal. I got goose bumps!” Mathews said.

In her closing statement, Malveaux reminded the audience of the importance of King’s message of working toward our dreams.

“When he talks about poverty, when he talks about equality ... fairness and justice, until we’ve attained those things, it’s important to come together to realize that we have a lot of work to do, but also to celebrate the genius of the man,” she said.
Team steps it up in second half

WOMEN’S, page 8

exactly what we did,” said forward Elisa Carey. FIU came on early in the second half with a 9-2 run and put themselves within one point of the lead after Gonzalez hit a jumper at the 13:01 minute mark.

However, the Pioneers were able to go up 47-41 after Culberson connected on a three-pointer with 5:09 minutes remaining.

“In the second half, we took our time. We passed the ball and looked for our shots better to win,” Carey said.

Down the stretch, Traugott was fouled with 1:51 minutes remaining and knocked down both of her free throw shots to put the Golden Panthers up 53-52.

“The wasn’t a pretty win, but when we come together we can do anything,” she said.

A win is a win, despite how it appears

JULIAN, page 8

Belot Conference standings, to get a home game in the opening round of the conference tournament.

And just at the right time too.

With FIU trending up, even as unprepossessing as it may have been, it’s a good sign for the Golden Panthers that they have been able to win close contests, as it shows all of that cliché stuff: heart, determination, mettle, etc. and that FIU has lots of it.

Coach Rouco told me earlier this season that this is the best character group he’s had during his tenure group. Contextualizing that with the last few weeks for FIU, it appears that coach Rouco made the right call, looking at this team as one that really fit together.

Now it becomes an issue of something of the Golden Panthers appear to have become quite adept at: finishing.

Over the next month and a half, I’m not so sure that FIU will become “Best in Show” in the Sun Belt, but becoming a consistent winner for the duration of the season is well within the grasp of the Golden Panthers.

The team, still missing 7-footer Russell Hicks and Florida State transfer Josue Soto, is loaded with character. And after all, didn’t mom tell you how much more important what’s on the inside is than what’s on the outside?

HONOR STUDENTS: Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society is seeking motivated students to establish a campus chapter. Contact: Director@PhiSigmaTheta.org

FOR RENT

Room for rent with DSL + utilities, located 2 miles from FIU on 711 SW 73 Ave 33144, $425 monthly. Call 305-305-4044
Six-game losing streak over

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

Finally, after a six-game losing streak, the women’s basketball team was able to pick up their second Sun Belt Conference win of the season.

A back and forth game ended with a Golden Panthers’ (4-14, 2-7 Sun Belt) 55-52 decision over the Denver Pioneers (9-8, 4-3) on Jan. 17 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Guard Monika Bosilj led all scorers with 15 points, while a three-pointer by guard Andie Mason put her team up 57-51, but they slowly inched their way closer by going inside to Asprilla.

The Golden Panthers closed out the game on a 7-0 run. The team won its third win in four games as Puerto Rican native Alex Galinde played in his sixth game of the season, despite nearly aggravating his ankle against Florida Atlantic University on Jan. 15.

With the Golden Panthers in the thick of conference play, the team has benefited from having Galindo and Asprilla on the floor together.

Early on in the game, the duo combined for 22 of the team’s 29 first half points. Asprilla knocked down 4-of-5 free throws despite shooting 43 percent from the charity stripe coming into the game.

The team vanquished its 29-25 lead six minutes into the second half. Forward Nate Rohnert from the Pioneers with 17 points on 7-of-12 shooting, but FIU’s defense would come back strong and the free throws would come down.

“Good teams find a way to win and we didn’t roll over when we were down five late in the game and we made shots,” said head coach Sergio Rouco. “I’m very, very happy for my guys.”

The Golden Panthers shot 71 percent from the free throw line. The team was shooting 62 percent from the field and 3-of-8 from the three-point line.

“FIU did the things they needed to do and that was reflected on the scoreboard,” Pioneers head coach Joe Scott said, according to denverpioneers.com. “We’re very, very concerned about the conference.

Against the University of Denver Pioneers (7-11, 2-5 Sun Belt), the freshman from Villavicencio, Colombia outweighed their heaviest player by 65 pounds, and showed little concern on his way to a 20-point game.