



MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Linda L. Neider
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: May 27, 2021

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2020-94(D) – Resolution Regarding Recent Termination of the Dean of the School of Law

The Faculty Senate, at an Executive Session on May 27, 2021, unanimously approved adopting the following resolution.

The Faculty Senate, as elected representatives of the University of Miami faculty, disapproves President Frenk’s unilateral decision to terminate Anthony Varona as Dean of the School of Law, effective July 1, 2021, only two years into a five-year term. We support our School of Law colleagues, students, and alumni who are understandably shocked by this decision particularly in view of Dean Varona’s commitment to the success of the school, his effective efforts to maintain the financial health of the school during the past two pandemic years, and his leadership vision for the school going forward. The firing of Dean Varona without appropriate faculty input and consultation has severely tarnished the university’s local, national, and international reputation. Moreover, this decision threatens to negatively impact hiring, recruitment, and accreditation going forward.

As a body of elected faculty leaders, we pride ourselves on working collaboratively with the administration, especially during the past fifteen months of the pandemic. It is disappointing that this spirit of collaboration and shared governance was clearly violated in making such a precipitous unilateral decision with no input from the faculty of the School of Law. We lend our complete support to the unanimous resolution adopted by the School of Law faculty on May 25, 2021, and strongly condemn the President’s decision to remove Dean Varona from his role. Furthermore, we strongly urge the President to reinstate Dean Varona and to evaluate him according to the processes specified in the *Faculty Manual*.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your information.

LLN/rh

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive Vice President and Provost
All University Faculty