

INDEX OF MINUTES
 STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
 BOARD OF GOVERNORS
 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
 MIAMI, FL
 September 1, 2021

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 and its Committees are accessible at <http://www.flbog.edu/>.*

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Call to Order	3
2. Chair’s Report to the Board of Governors	3
3. Chancellor’s Report	5
4. Public Comment	6
5. Confirmation of Confirmation of Appointment of Interim President for the University of North Florida	6
6. Confirmation of Confirmation of Appointment of Interim President for the University of South Florida	7
7. Confirmation of Confirmation of Reappointment of President for the Florida Gulf Coast University	8
8. Renewal of Chancellor’s Employment Agreement.....	8
9. Board of Governors- Recognition of Presidents Dr. David Szymanski, University of North Florida & Dr. Steven Currall, University of South Florida	9
10. Consent Agenda Items	9
A. Minutes, June 23, 2021	
B. Strategic Planning Committee Report	
i. 2021 Accountability Plans Update	
ii. 2021 System Accountability Plan	
iii. Pillars of Excellence 2021-22 Spending Plans	
C. Facilities Committee Report	
i. University of Florida Supplemental Educational Plant Survey	
ii. 2022-2023 Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request and PECO Preliminary Selection Group	
iii. Florida Polytechnic University P3 Research Facility	
iv. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 14.003 Fixed Capital Outlay University Budgeting Procedures	
D. Academic and Student Affairs Committee Report	
i. Public Notice to Approve Amendments to Board of Governors Regulation 6.0105, Student Conduct and Discipline	
ii. Termination Request for Ed.D. in Exceptional Student Education, CIP 13.1001, Florida International University	
iii. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.006, Acceleration Mechanisms	
E. Nomination and Governance Committee Report	
i. Consider Appointment of University Trustees	

- F. Academic and Research Excellence Committee Report
 - i. Public Notice of Intent to Adopt Board of Governors Regulation 9.012, Foreign Influence
- G. Budget and Finance Committee Report
 - i. Public Notice to Approve Amendments to Board of Governors Regulations
 - 1. 7.003, Fees, Fines and Penalties
 - 2. 7.008, Waivers and Exemptions of Tuition and Fees
 - 3. 9.006, University Personnel Definitions and Compensation
 - ii. Public Notice of Intent to Adopt Board of Governors Regulation 9.015 University Bonus Plans
 - iii. 2021-2022 State University System Operating Budget
 - iv. 2021-2022 Board General Office Budget
 - v. 2022-2023 State University System Legislative Budget Request
 - i. 2022-2023 Board General Office Legislative Budget Request
- 11. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment 9

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1. Call to Order

On September 1, 2021, Chair Sydney Kitson convened the meeting at 11:02 a.m. with the following members present and answering roll call: Vice Chair Brian Lamb; Tim Cerio; Aubrey Edge; Patricia Frost; Ed Haddock; Nastassia Janvier; Darlene Jordan; Alan Levine; Charles Lydecker; William Self; Eric Silagy and Kent Stermon.

2. Chair's Report to the Board of Governors

Chair Kitson thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and the Florida International University staff for their efforts in hosting the meeting during such challenging times. Mr. Roger Tovar, Vice Chair of the Florida International University Board of Trustees, welcomed the Board and introduced Alex Rubido, the President of the FIU Student Government Association. Mr. Rubido said FIU is a university defined by its students and their stories. Mr. Rubido shared his background and his aspirations to attend FIU's College of Law. He is a part of the Honors College at FIU, which prepares its students to enter Florida's workforce. He has held internships with top local law firms, and has competed in Model UN. Mr. Rubido explained his accomplishments are not the exception at FIU; rather, they are the rule.

At FIU, students generate their own success, and they work hard to achieve it. At FIU, the students are very diverse; they do not view their backgrounds, experiences or challenges as hardships, but use them to set themselves apart. As a top ranked university in social mobility, FIU is focused on uplifting excellence. He stated many students work part or full-time while attending college with a full course load. Many students have fled oppressive regimes or are the grandchildren or children of those who have. FIU students are Pell Grant recipients and first generation sons and daughters becoming the next generation of scholars, entrepreneurs, educators, scientists, doctors, etc. In embracing and redefining differences, FIU sets an example for others and is leading its students into a new age of industry and education. Mr. Rubido described FIU students as successful and resourceful. He said the students are an embodiment of the American Dream, pulling themselves up and working hard to achieve their dreams. Mr. Rubido remarked FIU did not get to where it is now by following the conventions of the past; FIU students are trailblazers, creating and redefining what a university is and what one ought to be. Mr. Rubido attributed FIU's accomplishments in performance funding by honing in on the differences of its students.

Mr. Rubido then played a video showcasing three students across FIU who shared information on their backgrounds and areas of study. Mr. Rubido concluded his presentation by emphasizing that the students at FIU were just getting started. Chair Kitson thanked Mr. Rubido for his presentation, which presented a great opportunity to step back and remember why we are here.

Chair Kitson stated that in a “normal” year, the focus would be on the energy and enthusiasm of thousands of new state university students and the efforts to accommodate them into our classrooms and residence halls. However, the battle with the COVID-19 virus continues and Chair Kitson assured the Board that university leaders have worked without pause during the summer to provide the safest possible campus environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Throughout the pandemic, the Board has been deliberative and proactive in providing guidance on strategies for the universities to stay fully functional while keeping the health and safety of all members of their campus communities as the highest priority.

Chair Kitson thanked Dr. Scott Rivkees, Florida’s Surgeon General, for his time and commitment to the State University System during the past two years. Dr. Rivkees’ informative updates and guidance on how to safely battle the COVID virus have been critical to enabling the universities to successfully operate during the pandemic. Dr. Rivkees expressed his appreciation to Chair Kitson, Chancellor Criser, and university leadership for their efforts during the pandemic and their incredible leadership. He noted the Delta variant is more contagious than variants that were circulating last year. And while case and positivity rates are stabilizing, there is still a considerable number of COVID-19 cases in the community.

Dr. Rivkees briefly discussed several important factors in the fight against COVID-19. The first factor is vaccinations, which he described as the pathway out of the pandemic. He explained the vaccines have excellent safety profiles and can prevent hospitalizations and deaths. He commended the universities for providing vaccine clinics for their campus communities. The second factor is mitigation efforts. Recognizing how the virus is transmitted, the universities have worked with the local departments of health to assist with testing and contact tracing. The third factor is the production of antibodies that decrease the risk of people being hospitalized. Dr. Rivkees said he is very proud of everyone’s efforts across the State University System who are working to combat the spread of the virus.

Chair Kitson explained in preparation for the new academic year, a series of official statements were issued to clarify the Board’s academic and health care priorities. The first statement, issued in June, addressed academic affairs and student support services and prioritized health and safety protocols to promote a healthy campus community. In July, a letter was sent directly to all State University System students strongly recommending that all students be vaccinated for the COVID virus before arriving on campus. The letter encouraged students to accept shared responsibility for the health and safety of themselves and their campus community.

To further emphasize the seriousness of the COVID virus and to promote a safe and healthy environment, in early August, the Board issued a Statement on Health Policies. This document restated the urgent need for unvaccinated people to get vaccinated and continue to wear a mask until they are fully vaccinated. The Statement also provided the latest guidance from the US Centers for Disease Control on face coverings. Chair Kitson said he is encouraged to see students following the protocols and doing their part, and he hopes it will continue. He expects this academic year to be a very productive and rewarding one for students.

He announced that Governor Ken Jones will be serving as the Board's representative on the University of South Florida Presidential Search Committee and that Governor Kent Stermon will be serving in that capacity on the University of North Florida Presidential Search Committee.

In closing, he applauded Board members for their unwavering commitment to ensuring a high quality university experience for our students and thanked Chancellor Criser for his leadership through challenging times. He expressed confidence in the State University System's ability to stand strong and solidify Florida's position as the No. 1 state for postsecondary education in the country.

3. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Criser explained House Bill 1261 charges the State University System with creating a free career assessment tool for freshmen. The initiative, known as MyFloridaFuture, will be available to students in January 2022 at [MyFloridaFuture.org](https://www.myfloridafuture.org). The tool will provide students, parents, and policymakers with a wealth of information to make better-informed decisions about educational options and future employment opportunities. Users will be able to explore data at the System level and by individual institution to assist with their decision-making process. Salary data will be available for degree programs at one, five and ten years after graduation. The tool will allow students to explore median wages for graduates in each field before selecting a major. Stakeholders will also be able to examine the percentage of graduates found employed for each program over time.

Additionally, there will be a component related to student debt. Users will be able to look at median student loan debt, debt-to-income ratios, and estimated monthly loan payments as a percentage of income for each program. They will also be able to look at additional credentials graduates could achieve based on their degree program, how those credentials influence wages, and the percentage of graduates who pursued additional education after completing a bachelor's degree.

Chancellor Criser said MyFloridaFuture will be a great tool for freshmen and he thanked the Board for their support and the Legislature for championing this legislation.

4. Public Comment

The Board received one request for public comment. Ms. Judith Futerfas shared her concerns in regards to fusion centers, which she felt could be addressed through the Accountability Plan Update.

5. Consideration of Confirmation of Appointment of Interim President for University of North Florida

Chair Kitson stated Mr. Kevin Hyde, Chair of the University of North Florida Board of Trustees, submitted a request for confirmation of Dr. Pamela Chally as the interim president of the University of North Florida. Chair Kitson then recognized Mr. Hyde. Chair Hyde stated Dr. Chally most recently served as the Interim Provost and previously served as the Dean of the College of Nursing. As they were making the selection for Interim President, her previous endeavors at UNF were important factors, especially her prior experience in health and sciences at UNF. He has known Dr. Chally personally for many years and she is very active in the Jacksonville community. Chair Hyde requested confirmation of her appointment as Interim President.

Dr. Chally said it is an honor to be considered for this opportunity. UNF is at a very exciting phase in its development as an emerging leader in areas of distinctive excellence, particularly MedNexus, initiated by Dr. Szymanski. UNF has a strong reputation for providing a great academic experience for its students and has worked on providing a supportive culture, with a focus on student wellbeing. UNF has also worked on strengthening faculty relations. She is committed to continued efforts in these areas and ongoing efforts to improve retention rates and four-year graduation rates. UNF has continuously been at the top of the list for graduate students who are employed in Florida and she pledged that post-graduate success will continue. Dr. Chally is also excited about the growth in the North Florida area. There are new and expanding industries and businesses, with robust art and cultural offerings and UNF plays a pivotal role.

Dr. Chally described her leadership style as incorporating strong consensus and relationship building across multiple constituencies. As a team builder, she also looks forward to meeting with all of the university presidents to explore ways to collaborate to promote the goals of the System. Dr. Chally indicated her familiarity with the performance-based funding metrics, the Accountability Plans, and Strategic Plans and emphasized her commitment to moving UNF upward on the trajectory.

During the last two years, Dr. Chally has been back in the classroom. She was able to influence nursing students and has worked hard to promote their success. Dr. Chally is confident she will be a better Interim President because of her experiences.

There being no further questions, Mr. Stermon moved approval of the confirmation of Dr. Pamela Chally as the Interim President of the University of North Florida. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion, and the members concurred unanimously.

Chair Kitson congratulated Dr. Chally and asked her she had any comments she would like to share. Dr. Chally thanked the Board and said she was looking forward to working with the Board and all of the presidents.

6. Consideration of Confirmation of Appointment of Interim President for University of South Florida

Chair Kitson stated Mr. Will Weatherford, Chair of the University of South Florida Board of Trustees, submitted a request for confirmation of Ms. Rhea Law as the interim president of the University of South Florida. Chair Kitson then recognized Mr. Weatherford. Chair Weatherford said the Board of Trustees unanimously selected Ms. Law as the Interim President. He stressed that Ms. Law has been an incredible leader in the community and state for a long time and that she has deep ties with the university, including being one of the founding members of the USF Board of Trustees, where she served as Vice-Chair for five years, Chair for four years, and was the first and only female chair of the Board at USF. Ms. Law holds leadership positions at organizations such as TECO Energy Board, Moffitt Cancer Center, and USF's President's Council Society.

Ms. Law earned her undergraduate degree in management from USF, putting herself through school while working as a university research project administrator. She then earned her degree in Law at Stetson University, where she subsequently served on their Board of Trustees. Ms. Law was named the 2018 Distinguished Alum by the USF Alumni Association, and in 2013, she was granted an Honorary Doctorate of Medicine by the Morsani College of Medicine.

Chair Weatherford remarked in the last few weeks as Interim President, Ms. Law has hit the ground running and continued the university's forward momentum. Chair Kitson stated he had noticed Ms. Law's willingness to jump in head first as Interim President.

Ms. Law thanked Chair Kitson, Chancellor Criser, and all of the Board of Governors for the honor to be able to serve. She explained that the fact that she can come back and help at this time, when there is so much momentum to move the university forward, is so meaningful to her.

Ms. Law stated that over the last 30 days, she has been talking with students, faculty, and staff and can feel the excitement. Her job will be to make sure the university doesn't lose any of that momentum and to provide a glide path for the new president. She recalled Chair Kitson's comment the day before that the universities are a solution for the state and their communities. She agrees and with the right resources and support, the State University System can do great things. She thanked the Board for this opportunity and looks forward to working with everyone.

There being no further questions, Mr. Lamb moved approval of the confirmation of Ms. Rhea Law as the Interim President of the University of South Florida. Mr. Silagy seconded the motion, and the members concurred unanimously.

Chair Kitson congratulated Ms. Law and asked if she had any comments she would like to share. Ms. Law stated, "Go Bulls".

7. Consideration of Confirmation of Reappointment of President for Florida Gulf Coast University

Chair Kitson said the Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees approved an amendment to Dr. Mike Martin's employment contract, which extended the term through December 31, 2022. Mr. Blake Gable, Chair of the Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees, submitted a request for confirmation of Dr. Martin's reappointment. Chair Kitson recognized Mr. Gable.

Chair Gable stated Dr. Martin has performed extraordinarily well over his tenure as president. The university has risen to new levels under his leadership and they are thrilled that Dr. Martin agreed to stay for a while longer.

Hearing no questions, Mr. Cerio moved approval of the confirmation of Dr. Martin's reappointment as the President of the Florida Gulf Coast University. Mr. Silagy seconded the motion, and the members concurred unanimously.

Dr. Martin thanked everyone, stating it has been an interesting ride. He passed his 58th year in public higher education on August 8th and there are still some things he is anxious to do. He looks forward to continuing serving as President for a bit longer.

8. Renewal of Chancellor's Employment Agreement

Chair Kitson recognized the Chancellor's exemplary performance and moved to renew the Chancellor's Employment Agreement for an additional one year term from January 1, 2022, to January 1, 2023, and for the Board to authorize a delegation of authority to the Chair to negotiate a revised compensation amount and execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board. Mr. Silagy moved approval, which was seconded by Mr. Cerio and the members concurred unanimously.

9. Board of Governors- Recognition of Presidents Dr. David Szymanski, University of North Florida and Dr. Steven Currall, University of South Florida.

Chair Kitson recognized Dr. David Szymanski for his service as president and stated that it had been incredible to work with President Szymanski over the last two years. He noted Dr. Szymanski has helped get the university through some difficult times and has steered UNF to go in the right direction.

Dr. Szymanski thanked Chair Kitson for his kind words. He said he was given a challenge in June 2018 to think about excellence and feels he met that challenge. He extended his gratitude to his colleagues, the Board and the Chancellor, and shared his excitement for the new opportunity to be the new CEO of MedNexus.

Ms. Vikki Shirley, the Board's General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, read a resolution honoring Dr. Szymanski. The resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board upon a motion by Mr. Cerio and seconded by Mr. Silagy.

Chair Kitson recognized Dr. Steven Currall for his valuable service to USF and the State University System, and for keeping the students at the forefront of what we do.

Ms. Shirley read a resolution honoring Dr. Szymanski. The resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board upon a motion by Mr. Lamb and seconded by Mr. Silagy.

10. Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Lamb moved approval of the slate of items on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Silagy seconded the motion, and the members concurred unanimously.

11. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Kitson announced the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for November 3-4, 2021 at Florida Atlantic University. The Trustee Summit will start at 11:00 a.m. on November 3 and there is an excellent program planned for the Summit. Chair Kitson said Mr. Larry Burns will be the keynote speaker, and encouraged trustees and members to register early. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. on September 1, 2021.

Sydney Kitson, Chair

Vikki Shirley,
Corporate Secretary