

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
In person meeting
University of South Florida – Annual BOG Meeting 6/22/23

Video or audio archives of the meetings of the Board of Governors and its committees are accessible

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/6-22-23-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/>

1. Call to Order (starts at 3:06:04)

Chair Lamb called the meeting to order. The following Governors were present: Lamb, Silagy, Cerio, Frost (remote), Hitchcock, Jones, Levine, Lydecker, Mateer, and Oliva. Haddock and Michael were present and at the table. Diaz joined subsequently. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Chair's Report to the Board of Governors and Remarks

Chair Lamb extended his thanks to USF for hosting and yielded the floor to President Law. She thanked the team that put the event on and addressed USF now being a part of the AAU, as a demonstration of hard work of the university community, having paid off. She thanked the Board and the Chancellor for their part in securing a position in the AAU. President Law remarked that USF remains committed to staying in this stature and will work hard to keep their University at the top in the state. She highlighted a number of programs and focused on USF's Cybersecurity program. She invited General Frank McKenzie who is the Executive Director of both USF's Global and National Security Institute and CyberFlorida to speak, and after his presentation Dorian Pope, a former student and now an employee in Cybersecurity at USF, also addressed the Board. Chair Griffin spoke about USF and thanked the Board, the Chancellor and the Legislature for their support.

Chair Lamb took the floor and stated for the record that Governors Haddock and Michael are present and Governor Diaz joined via (Zoom). He remarked that earlier Governor Silagy asks to take Out-of-State Fees off today's full board agenda and the Board would circle back soon on that topic. Two housekeeping items he touched on he found important; first on budget – the SUS is up 29% in operating funds. An increase of over a billion dollars in the last 2 years. The SUS is up \$1.6B in fixed capital outlay funding since 2022. That is more on FCO than the last 8 years combined. On regulations – Universities recommended about 40 changes – 14 are pending revision or revised. Some are being repealed, another 6 under Board staff review today and 12 are regulations we would have to get statutory changes around. The Board is continuing to promote the ability for the Presidents and BOT have the autonomy to run their institutions. He and the Chancellor plan to continue to work hard to find ways to simplify our processes. The Chair yielded the floor to the Chancellor after instructing the speakers for public comment to move forward and be ready to speak.

3. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Rodrigues took the floor and excused his absence as he was with the Governor and the Attorney General, in downtown Tampa, where they announced that Florida would be filing a lawsuit against the Department of Education on the subject of Accreditation. The lawsuit argues that private accrediting agencies in higher education have been granted too much power by Congress and that the grant of that power violates constitutional principals and undermines accountability. The specific

portions that are cited are violations of the Appointments Clause, the Spending Clause and the Administrative Procedures Act. This litigation aims to open up the ability for Universities to choose their accreditors. He noted, institutions have sent the request to change accreditors and the Department of Education is not responding, and in essence not following their own rule. He remarked that at the last meeting he reviewed appropriations extensively but what was not significantly focused on was policy. Addressing that in the meeting, he noted staff identified over 30 bills that were passed and then signed by the Governor that impacted higher education. He noted, that within those bills are often multiple sections that will require action on the part of the institutions and the system. That is being worked on. This will be approached strategically different than in the past; specifically going forward we will seek to collaborate with the Department of Education, and noted Governor (Commissioner) Diaz. We are also initiating work on SB 266 and the rest of the legislation to implement. The idea is to work together and collaborate to allow uniform legislative intent.

4. Public Comment

Rachel explains the process of public comment and each person has two minutes.

Michael Sanderson wishes to comment on accountability plans from New College.

Beverly Frank from the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects speaks on regulations.

Carolyn Collins from FAMU speaks on low-income families and homeless students and Pell Grants.

Jono Miller President of NCF Freedom speaks regarding New College accountability plan.

Tanner Kelly speaks in support of the FGCU President Elect from the FGCU Student Government.

Janine Ashforth speaks in opposition of New College accountability plan.

Sarah Engles speaks in opposition of New College accountability plan.

That concludes public comment.

5. Resolutions

Chair Lamb shifted to recognizing Governor Nimna Gabadage, asks Rachel to read the resolutions on behalf of Student Government President Nimna Gabadage and FGCU President Mike Martin. He then spoke to President Martin and gave him the floor to share a few remarks.

Chair Lamb stated in the essence of time the resolution will be delivered to him and asked for Motions on the Resolutions. Governor Levine firsts, Governor Mateer seconds. Motion carried.

Chair Lamb yielded the floor to Chair Hosseini to speak on Dean Colson with FIU and his exit from the FIU Board. He was thanked for his leadership through his years on the board and in the system.

Chair Colson spoke on his time with FIU and thanked everyone for his time in the system and with the FIU Board.

6. Approval of FIU's Bylaws

Chair Lamb yielded the floor to Rachel to explain the versions of the FIU-HCN Bylaws in front of them, the amendments and updates. She then switched to the Articles of Incorporation and its

amendments. Governor Levine asked questions in regards to specific language directed to the FIU representatives regarding the university's presidential power to correct actions by the HCN's Board.

A motion to approve was called for. First Motion by Governor Frost, Second Motion by Governor Lydecker. Motion carried.

7. Presidential Search Report

Chair Lamb stated we have 2 searches in motion at this time – FAU and New College of Florida and Governor Levine is serving on both, so Chair Lamb yielded the floor to Governor Levine on the topic.

Governor Levine remarked that there has been a lot said in the press but they have had exceptional response and attracted great candidates for these positions. Governor Levine remarked that FAU has a pool of candidates they are looking through and are confident in the process. The FAU Board Chair Levine gave some information on the plans for their search. He reported receiving 63 applications and he believed the applicants are impressive. He gave an overview of the applicants and the search firm helped prioritize these into categories.

Regarding the New College search, which was currently underway. The BOT has approved the search criteria, reviewed the marketing plan and the position was posted in early June. The position would remain open until the middle of July. The plan announced was to bring these potential applications and candidates to the August meeting.

Chair Lamb reminded colleagues on the Board they are welcome to reach out to each other and ask questions as needed. Governor Levine shared he will get the compensation analysis and have it distributed.

8. Confirmation of FGCU President Elect

Chair Lamb yielded the floor to Chair Gables to present and begin the process of confirming Dr. Aysegul Timur, President-Elect for FGCU. Chair Gables recognized President Martin, and complimented President Martin's service to the university. He made remarks on the presidential search process. They had 92 applicants and brought 8 in for interviews and 4 came before the BOT. The Board selected Dr. Timur. Southwest Florida business leaders were overjoyed at the choice and she is a great asset to the community. Her contract was under much discussion with the Chancellor and the Chair. Governor Jordan was very involved and a great help as they moved through the process. Chair Lamb gave President Elect Timur the floor.

Dr. Timur spoke on the search process and thanks everyone. She gave a brief outline of her collegiate journey and career. She remarked on her mission for FGCU and her plans for the future of the institution.

Chair Lamb opened the floor to the Board. Governor Cerio remarked – and asks about free expression versus civil discourse. Dr. Timur answered and stated that she as well as her institution have a civil discourse plan.

Chair Lamb took the floor and asks Dr. Timur what she thinks her next 60-90 days looks like. Dr. Timur states she will be working on the FGCU Strategic Plans due in December. She will work to get the approval of the Board and bring it to the BOG in January.

Chair Lamb asked if there are any more questions then calls for a Motion for Confirmation for Dr. Aysegul Timur, President-Elect for FGCU. Governor Silagy Motions, Governor Lydecker seconded the Motion. Motion carried and Dr. Timur is President of FGCU.

Chair Lamb congratulated her and moved to the consent agenda.

There was some housekeeping on the consent agenda because of some amendments through the committees. The first one related to PBF – Chair Lamb stated that he would like a Motion Amending the Motion to regarding PBF allocation which was to approve the allocations of the funds as shown with 2.2M held in reserve until New College presents a student success plan and business plan – that was part of the addition. Chair Lamb asks for someone to make the Motion – Governor Lydecker moved first, a second by Governor Jones was made. Motion carried. Consent agenda amended. Chair Lamb gives the floor to Governor Levine for a second motion. He stated that for the record, he would like to make the Motion that the Amended Motion that was put forward yesterday regarding the approval of the 2023 accountability plans, excluding New College of Florida, come forward and be approved on the consent agenda today. He looked to the Chair. Chair Lamb asks for a Motion, Governor Mateer moved, a second was called and two members seconded. Motion properly seconded. No further discussion was had. Motion carried.

9. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Lamb called for a Motion for the approval of the full consent agenda. Approval was motioned by Governor Silagy and seconded by Governor Jones. Moved and properly seconded. Motion carried.

10. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Lamb remarked it has been a great meeting and well done. That concluded all action and informational items for the Board Meeting. He thanked everyone for their attendance and engagement. He thought we had very good discussions and are walking away better than when we walked in and we will see you all at UF in August. Meeting adjourned.