

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
University of Central Florida
Grand Ballroom, UCF *FAIRWINDS* Alumni Center
November 9, 2023
Full Board Meeting

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

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/11-9-23-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/>

1. Call to Order (Florida Channel Timestamps 02:04:06/04:11:56)

Chair Lamb began the meeting by thanking the University of Central Florida for hosting the meeting and then handed the floor over to University of Central Florida's Board of Trustees Chair Alex Martins. Chair Martins welcomed the board members, trustees, and staff and stated that UCF continues to be ranked one of the most innovative universities in the country because of its work. Chair Martins then acknowledged and thanked several UCF Board of Trustees members. He stated that UCF has been dedicated to unleashing the potential of people and ideas to positively impact the world for the last 60 years; a mission centered around nurturing, inspiring, and educating the workforce and leaders who have fueled the economic prosperity of their region and the state. Chair Martins continued, stating that with nearly 70,000 students and more than 368,000 alumni, UCF has been providing the talent for many of the industries that are fueling Florida's high-tech economy. Chair Martins elaborated upon this point by explaining that 297,000 UCF alumni, more than 80% of graduates, remain Florida residents who work and serve in communities across the state. He stated that through their current strategic plan, UCF developed a roadmap to become a university for the future: one of Florida's next preeminent universities. Chair Martins once again placed emphasis on his gratitude for those present at the meeting and stated that their work pushed them to be better leaders in higher education.

UCF President Alexander Cartwright then welcomed the guests to UCF and gave a brief overview of the university's purpose and history. President Cartwright stated that as the university has grown, it has also helped in growing the community and its industries. He elaborated, stating that the university's location and focus on partnership gives students and faculty the opportunity to engage in experiences embedded across industry and the community.

President Cartwright then introduced an aerospace engineering student and ROTC cadet by the name of William Hidalgo by way of a video presentation. A video was then played that briefly explained the experiences of the student at the university, highlighting his goals and experiences at UCF. President Cartwright stated that UCF awards 24% of the state's bachelor's degrees and provides future-focused talent. He stated that their exceptional students, paired with strong industry partnerships, have allowed them to serve Florida as

the premier university for engineering and technology. President Cartwright then introduced students Harrison Keating and Jeffrey DeVincent who are members of UCF's internationally renowned collegiate cybersecurity competition team. The students introduced their team and its purpose, highlighting their excellence in cybersecurity. The students then described their personal experiences and relationships to cybersecurity. Once they completed their presentation, President Cartwright thanked the students and proceeded to thank Chair Lamb and the other governors for their support of UCF and student success.

Chair Lamb asked the secretary, Rachel Kamoutsas, to take the roll. Rachel thanked Chair Lamb and called the roll; everyone called upon was present. Quorum was met.

2. Chair's Remarks and Report to the Board

Chair Lamb stated that there are always historic milestones in the State University System and that we are fortunate to have a new one at the University of Florida. Chair Lamb congratulated President Ben Sasse on being inaugurated at the University of Florida and stated that the Board is incredibly happy and excited for his future.

Chair Lamb stated that before the meeting, he spoke with faculty and that one topic was investing in the universities, highlighting that the state is investing 566 million dollars in faculty and their research. Broken down, 100 million dollars were allocated to faculty recruitment and retention, 100 million dollars were allocated to preeminence, and 366 million dollars came from carryforward. Chair Lamb continued by stating that for this coming year, the BOG increased the investment in faculty by elevating the legislative budget request to 250 million dollars, with 100 million dollars for faculty recruiting and retention and 150 million dollars for preeminence. Chair Lamb stated that the board is determined to ensure that this money is allocated to help faculty, remember the investment in faculty, and promote transparency.

The Chair then acknowledged the Chancellor for his comments at the Trustee Summit and asked for attendees to share their feedback. Chair Lamb then ceded the floor to Chancellor Rodrigues.

3. Chancellor's Remarks and Report to the Board

Chancellor Rodrigues echoed the sentiments recognizing Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature in their support during the most recent session in providing record levels of funding to the State University System and to Florida's universities. The Chancellor then thanked each of the state universities for their representation at the Trustee Summit, acknowledging their fellowship and camaraderie and highlighting how important it is for the relationships that make our State University System.

Chancellor Rodrigues then introduced Amanda Gay, a new member to the Board of Governors team who will assist with general counsel and corporate secretary duties on a temporary basis.

After completing Amanda Gay's introduction, Chancellor Rodrigues recalled the events of October 7th, when the terrorist organization Hamas launched a terrorist attack on the people of Israel on a Jewish holiday. The Chancellor explained that Governor DeSantis, the State University System of Florida, and the Florida College System have all condemned these attacks and stated that, thanks to the Governor, he was able to respond with prompted coordination between Florida's two educational systems and law enforcement in making clear that we stand in solidarity with Israel and will ensure the safety of all Jewish students. On October 12th, the National Students for Justice in Palestine held a National Day of Resistance, and leading up to this day, the organization released a toolkit that referred to the October 7th terrorist attack as the "resistance." He further stated that in addition to promoting violent and discriminatory behavior towards Jews and Israelis, the toolkit promotes a terrorist organization. Chancellor Rodrigues also stated that at the time the toolkit was published, two state universities had reported active registered organizations with the name "Students for Justice in Palestine." The Chancellor reported that on October 24th, he consulted with the Governor to issue a memo that directed the presidents of the two institutions to deactivate the registered organizations named "Students for Justice in Palestine" and encouraged the presidents of the universities to facilitate the reconstitution of said organizations under either a new charter with a different organization or a new name that was compliant with state laws. Chancellor Rodrigues continued by stating that this action came because of the actions of the National Students for Justice in Palestine, as they violated the state's antiterrorism statute and, therefore, ensured that no chapter operating under their charter should be active on Florida state universities' campuses. He continued to explain that the two organizations met with their respective institutions and stated that they were not chartered or under the headship of the National Students for Justice in Palestine, and the constitutions of both organizations clearly stated that their organization is not subservient under the National Students for Justice in Palestine. Therefore, Chancellor Rodrigues explained that the university chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine have not been deactivated by their universities. Additionally, Chancellor Rodrigues stated that the universities have obtained legal opinions that raised concerns about potential personal liability for university actors who deactivate the registered organizations. Chancellor Rodrigues restated that as tensions have developed in Israel, the State University System has been focused on ensuring the health and safety of its students. The Chancellor then highlighted the two steps that will be taken by the board: first, the board was seeking outside legal counsel on this matter, and second, would work with the two universities for an express affirmation from their organizations that they reject violence, that they reject that they are part of Hamas' movement, and that they will follow the law. The Chancellor expressed that he would follow up with the universities by the next week and then closed his remarks by stating that to date, Florida's campuses have avoided the violence and the antisemitism that has been occurring on campuses across the nation.

4. Public Comment

Chair Lamb then moved the meeting to public comment. Chair Lamb stated that there were upwards of fifteen people who would like to make a public comment, and only fifteen minutes of time allocated to this portion of the meeting.

Rachel Kamoutsas introduced the members of the public:

Mike Sanderson spoke on New College of Florida and Richard Corcoran's confirmation.

Deborah Parker spoke on Regulation 14.010.

Logan Rubenstein spoke on Regulation 9.016.

Liam Gundy spoke on Regulation 9.016.

Elizabeth Burcaw spoke on Regulation 9.016.

William Youmans, Emma Roy, and Emma Aagard were called to speak but were not present.

Matthew G. spoke on Regulation 9.016.

Emma Roy returned and spoke on Regulation 9.016.

Claudia Thomas spoke on the need for a broad and diverse education.

Emma Aagard then returned and spoke on Regulation 9.016.

Gina Duncan spoke on DEI funding and restroom policies.

Katherine Fitzgerald then spoke on Regulation 9.016.

Quinn Diaz then returned to speak on the changes made regarding bathrooms for transgender students and faculty and prohibited expenditures.

Grace Castellan spoke on academic freedom in Florida and diversity, social justice, political advocacy, and equity.

At the conclusion of the time allotted for public comment, Chair Lamb reiterated the importance of hearing the public comment and then asked those who had written comments to send them to the general counsel's email.

Chair Lamb then explained that there were five items removed from the consent agenda.

5. Public Notice of Approval of Adoption of Board of Governors Regulation 14.010, Designation of Restrooms and Changing Facilities

Chair Lamb read the Public Notice of Approval of Adoption of Board of Governors Regulation 14.010, Designation of Restrooms and Changing Facilities and called for a motion. Governor Mateer moved to approve the public notice, and Governor Edge properly seconded the motion. Chair Lamb then asked if there was any further discussion, and Governor Amanda Phalin stated that she would provide information that was previously requested of her by Governor Lydecker in the last meeting. She stated that there are unintended consequences to the proposed regulation and proceeded to briefly summarize these consequences for the public record. Once Governor Phalin's comments were concluded, Chair Lamb reiterated that the motion had been moved, properly seconded, and then called for a vote. Vote taken; Hitchcock and Phalin opposed. The motion carried.

6. Public Notice of Intent to Adopt Board of Governors Regulation 9.016, Prohibited Expenditures

Chair Lamb read the Public Notice of Intent to Adopt Board of Governors Regulation 9.016 Prohibited Expenditures and called for a motion. Governor Edge moved to approve the public notice, which was seconded by Governor Jones. Governor Hitchcock stated that he had a few questions regarding Regulation 9.016 and that most of the public comments were on DEI. He then posed several questions, which were answered by General Counsel Rachel Kamoutsas. Governor Levine then thanked Governor Hitchcock and highlighted two things he deemed to be important: first, that a law was passed by the policymakers of our state, and there was a responsibility to implement a regulation to implement the law; and second, he stated that this is a very important public process where we have proposed a regulation and that the public has an opportunity to give us comment on that regulation, and that this has been a very tested and true way of listening to what the public is saying about the proposed regulation and adapting to the public comment. Chair Lamb then stated that the regulation had been moved, properly seconded, and called for a vote. The vote was taken; Governors Hitchcock and Phalin opposed.

7. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.005, General Education Core Course Options

Chair Lamb introduced the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.005, General Education Core Course Options. Governor Phalin asked to pull the amended Articulation Coordinating Committee's recommendation for the General Education course list. Chair Lamb called for a motion and Governor Hitchcock moved to amend the regulation to add sociology back to the list of courses that would be allowed in the social sciences; Governor Phalin seconded. Chair Lamb then asked if there was support for an amendment to the regulation and explained that the motion was effectively changing the position of what was improved in the committee back to the original. Chair Lamb then called for a vote. The motion did not pass, so Chair Lamb reintroduced the motion that made it through the committee. Governor Cerio made the motion, which was seconded by Governor Mateer, with Governor Hitchcock asking for further discussion. Governor Hitchcock reiterated that sociology should be maintained as an option, and Governor Phalin agreed that more choice is better and that the ACC's work in expanding the options for students should be recognized. Chair Lamb then stated that the motion was made and properly seconded. The vote was taken; Governors Hitchcock and Phalin opposed. The motion passed.

Chair Lamb asked for the other item that Governor Phalin asked to be pulled from the consent agenda. Rachel explained that the item was the motion to approve the Articulation Coordinating Committee's recommendation for the general education core course list that was passed with the amendment removing sociology and adding the civic literacy requirement. Chair Lamb clarified that sociology has only been removed as a core course but that students could still select to take the course. Chair Lamb called for a motion, which was made and seconded, and then carried, with Governors Phalin and

Hitchcock opposing. Rachel then asked for clarification on who made the motion and second; Governor Edge made the motion, which was seconded by Governor Jones.

8. Public Notice of Approval of Amendment of Board of Governors Regulation 2.003, Equity and Access

Chair Lamb introduced the item and called for a motion for the full board. Governor Cerio moved to approve the public notice of approval of amendment, which was seconded by Governor Lydecker. A vote was taken with all in favor except Governor Phalin.

9. Public Notice of Approval of Amendment of Board of Governors Regulation 10.003, Post-Tenure Faculty Review

Chair Lamb introduced the item and called for a motion for the full board. Governor Cerio moved to approve the public notice of approval of the amendment, and Governor Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Governor Phalin opposing.

This brought an end to the items that were pulled from the consent agenda.

10. Presentation of Board of Governors Resolutions

Chair Lamb next recognized various leaders who have served the state of Florida on trustee boards and on the Board of Governors. Chair Lamb presented resolutions to the following:

Chair Lamb acknowledged Chair Kelvin Lawson's achievements and thanked him for his work at FAMU. Chair Lamb then congratulated Chair Lawson for the achievements that FAMU has reached during his tenure. Chair Lawson then approached the podium and thanked Chair Lamb, Vice Chair Silagy, and the rest of the Board of Governors for the support that they have given FAMU during his time as board chair.

Chair Lamb recognized former Member of the Board of Governors Dr. Deanna Michael, stating that she has been an outstanding public servant and faculty member at both USF and the Board of Governors.

Chair Lamb recognized Governor Steven Scott as well, stating that he was not present, but highlighting that he was a member of the Board of Governors since 2008 and that he is thankful for the work he has done.

Lastly, Chair Lamb recognized the former FIU Trustee Chair, Dean Colson. Chair Lamb thanked him for playing an integral role in the success of FIU.

Chair Lamb then introduced Representative Anna Eskamani, who represents District 42 in the Florida State Legislature. Representative Eskamani offered feedback for consideration on Regulation 9.016 and in the conversation regarding sociology classes. Eskamani stated that the Senate Bill ignored some of the considerations she raised, and that she believes that the Board of Governors should address some of them.

Once Representative Eskamani concluded her comments, Rachel pointed out that the motion to adopt the resolutions still had to be done. Chair Lamb called for a motion to approve the resolutions. Vice Chair Silagy moved to adopt the resolutions, which was seconded by Governor Levine. The motion carried.

11. University of South Florida, SIP Health Sciences Center Insurance Co.'s Investment Policy

Chair Lamb introduced the next item and handed the floor to Rachel Kamoutsas. Rachel stated that the draft of the amended investment policy can be found within the materials and highlighted the key changes that were made. Chair Lamb called for a motion to approve the resolutions. Governor Levine moved to approve the amendments, and Governor Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried.

12. Confirmation of the Reappointment of the President for the University of West Florida

Chair Lamb introduced the agenda item for the Confirmation of the Reappointment of the President for the University of West Florida, the reappointment of President Martha Saunders. Chair Lamb asked UWF Board of Trustees Chair Lewis to present; Chair Lewis highlighted the achievements and strategies of President Saunders at UWF. Once Chair Lewis concluded her comments, Chair Lamb stated that it had been a true pleasure to witness President Saunders' involvement at UWF. Chair Lamb then called for a motion, which was made by Governor Lydecker to approve the confirmation. Vice Chair Silagy seconded the motion; the motion passed.

13. Confirmation of New College of Florida President-Elect

Chair Lamb introduced New College of Florida President-Elect Richard Corcoran and handed the floor over to New College of Florida Board of Trustees Chair Jenks. Chair Jenks thanked Chair Lamb and detailed parts of their presidential search and selection process. Chair Jenks then highlighted President-Elect Corcoran's achievements and thanked Governor Levine. Governor Levine echoed Chair Jenks' words and sentiments and made a motion for approval of the confirmation of Richard Corcoran as presented along with the agreement. The motion was properly seconded by Governor Cerio, and Vice Chair Silagy provided further discussion. Vice Chair Silagy expressed that there has been a lot of conversation in the public domain particularly around the compensation package, and that it is important to break down the differences between public and private dollars. Governor Levine stated that there was a \$200,000 limit on state funding and that the rest of the \$900,000 had to be earned either through retention or performance. Chair Lamb thanked the participants of the discussion for their clarification and asked if there was any further discussion. Governor Cerio asked if President-Elect Corcoran has reviewed and agreed with the State University System's statement of free expression. President-Elect Corcoran responded that yes, he did agree with the statement of free expression. Governor Phalin then asked President-Elect Corcoran about his plans for

engaging old and new faculty. President-Elect Corcoran stated that he has already been through this process during his time as interim president. He elaborated, stating that the processes have been carried out alongside faculty. Governor Phalin thanked the President-Elect for his response and Chair Lamb reiterated that the confirmation had been moved and seconded. The motion was properly moved, seconded, and carried, with Governor Oliva opposing. President-Elect Corcoran then gave brief comments where he thanked Chancellor Rodrigues and the other state universities' presidents.

14. Presidential Search Report, Florida Atlantic University

Chair Lamb introduced the Presidential Search Report item. Chancellor Rodrigues stated that the FAU presidential search remains suspended, and that his office has continued its investigation and worked diligently in conducting the interviews, reviewing the documents, and drafting their findings. Chancellor Rodrigues then stated that they would have a more comprehensive update on this topic soon. Governor Phalin thanked President Volnick on behalf of faculty and stated that she believed it was important for her colleagues to see how highly valued she has been.

15. Presidential Search Report, Florida Polytechnic University

Governor Jones stated that the Florida Polytechnic University's Board of Trustees has appointed Vice Chair Beth Keigel as the Chair of the presidential selection committee, and that Chair Otto has appointed the search committee and provided them with the official charge. Governor Jones concluded by stating that the initial meeting of the Florida Polytechnic University's search committee will take place on the morning of December 7, 2023, where members of the search committee and the board of trustees will start the process and ensure a successful presidential search for Florida Polytechnic University.

16. Election of Board Officers, Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Lamb began the election of the board officers with the nomination and election of the board chair in accordance with the articles and procedures. Governor Levine nominated Brian Lamb for chairman for the next two years. Vice Chair Silagy gave his comments as well, thanking Brian Lamb for all the work and knowledge he passed down to him while serving as the chairman of the board, and concluded by nominating Charlie Lydecker for the position. Vice Chair Silagy highlighted Governor Lydecker's achievements and positive qualities in his nomination. Governor Lydecker thanked Governor Silagy and stated that he did not believe he should go forward as a nominee for chairman. A motion to close nominations was made. The motion was properly moved, seconded, and carried. Governor Mateer made a motion to elect Brian Lamb as chair for a term beginning on January 1, 2024, and ending December 21, 2025, was made. The motion was seconded by Governor Cerio, and the motion carried. UCF Board of Trustees Chair Martins then expressed his gratitude for Chair Lamb.

Governor Oliva nominated Governor Alan Levine for the seat of Vice Chair of the Board of Governors. Governor Patricia Frost seconded this nomination, stating that Governor

Levine would bring a great deal to the board as the vice chair. A motion was proposed and seconded to close nominations for vice chair. Governor Edge gave a few brief comments about Governor Levine's dedication and passion for his work. Governor Jones then highlighted Governor Levine's tenacity and ability to take on hard tasks. Vice Chair Silagy echoed the comments of Governor Jones. Governor Cerio then expressed his support for Governor Levine's candidacy and concluded his remarks. Governor Hitchcock then stated that although he has not known Governor Levine for nearly as long as the others, that he has experienced how welcoming and helpful he has been. Governor Jordan then voiced that she and Governor Levine joined the board at the same time and that she has witnessed how Governor Levine has been a champion for the State University System from day one. After Governor Jordan's comments were concluded, Chair Lamb called for the motion to close nominations. The motion was properly moved, seconded, and carried. Governor Frost moved to elect Alan Levine as vice chair for a term beginning on January 1, 2024, and ending December 21, 2025, was made. The motion was properly seconded by Vice Chair Silagy, and the motion carried. Chair Lamb congratulated Governor Levine and thanked Eric Silagy for his work as the vice chair of the Board of Governors.

17. Consent Agenda Items for Approval

Chair Lamb called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Vice Chair Silagy moved to approve the consent agenda, which was seconded by Governor Levine. The motion carried.

Chair Lamb concluded the full board meeting.