

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
VIA ZOOM
September 18, 2024

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<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/9-18-24-florida-board-of-governors-meeting-part-2/>

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Cerio convened the meeting at 1:07 p.m. with the following Governors present: Governors Cerio, Edge, Bell Barnett, Brinkman, Frost, Haddock, and Phalin. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the June 27, 2024, committee meeting minutes. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Edge seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

3. Post-tenure Review Update

Chair Cerio recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to provide an update on the recent post-tenure review conducted across the System.

Ms. Sikes provided information on the development of Regulation 10.003, Post-Tenure Faculty Review, following the passage of Senate Bill 7044 in the fall of 2022. She reported that the regulation requires institutions in the System to conduct periodic reviews of tenured faculty. The first reviews were conducted during the spring of 2024, and universities updated their boards after the reviews were completed.

Ms. Sikes noted that each university was required to select 20% of their faculty for review and added that the universities used different processes for selecting faculty. She reported that out of 861 total faculty reviewed, 787 met or exceeded expectations.

Board Chair Brian Lamb commended Governor Cerio for his leadership regarding post-tenure review and expressed his intent to continue improving the process.

Governor Phalin noted that the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates discussed with the Board how to reward service as a part of the post-tenure review process.

Chair Cerio asked for updates from university presidents on how the process went on campus. President Kenneth Jessell of Florida International University reported that the university's board of trustees valued faculty input and sought to account for the excellence of faculty during their review process. He added that the university developed a consistent rubric for post-tenure review and outlined a process for selecting which faculty will be reviewed in a given year.

President Cartwright from the University of Central Florida reported that the university's review process will continue to develop as the university shifts focus toward becoming a top major research university.

4. Civil Discourse and the American Political Order

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. William Inboden, Professor and Director of the Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education at the University of Florida, to provide an overview of the new Civil Discourse and the American Political Order course, which will meet the postsecondary civic literacy competency course requirement.

Dr. Inboden described how the proposed civic literacy course would delve into debates and traditions that have developed throughout the history of Western civilization and governance. He presented a model curriculum for the course, which included readings on founding American documents and the meaning of freedom of speech.

Governor Levine asked about the potential of teaching courses like those from the Hamilton Center at the middle and high school levels. Dr. Inboden responded that the Hamilton Center has worked with K-12 educators throughout the state to improve civic education.

Before moving forward with the next item on the agenda, Chair Cerio commended President Richard McCullough of Florida State University for being the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression's third-ranked university in promoting free speech. He also recognized the University of Florida for ranking 17th.

5. Office of Public Policy Events Update

Chair Cerio introduced the next item on the agenda, an update on the activities of Offices of Public Policy Events across the System. He reported that Senate Bill 931, passed during the 2023 legislative session, required each institution in the System to establish an Office of Public Policy Events. He added that these offices were formed to organize, publicize, and stage debates on opposing sides of popular current events. Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Tony Lee, Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs, to provide an update on the Offices of Public Policy Events.

Dr. Lee reported that each university's Office of Public Policy hosted events with speakers representing different perspectives on current political issues. He noted that in the past year, every institution in the System participated, a total of 50 events were hosted, over 3,000 students participated, and the total cost to institutions was approximately \$77,000.

6. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.006, Civic Literacy Competency

Chair Cerio recognized Ms. Sikes to provide an overview of the proposal to amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.006, Civic Literacy Competency.

Ms. Sikes explained that the proposed amendment would add AMS X010, Civil Discourse and the American Political Order, as an option to meet the civic literacy course requirement. She added that the course has been reviewed by the Department of Education and included in the Statewide Course Numbering System. Recognizing the course in the Board's regulation would allow students to use it to meet the civic literacy requirement beginning in spring 2025.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.006, Civic Literacy Competency. Governor Edge moved to approve, Governor Brinkman seconded, and the motion passed.

7. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.003, Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency

Chair Cerio recognized Ms. Sikes to provide an overview of the proposal to amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.003, Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency.

Ms. Sikes presented that the proposed amendment would require each university's board of trustees to outline a process for approving and adopting textbook and instructional materials in a university regulation. She added that the amendment also requires faculty and instructors to attest that all required course materials have been reviewed for each course each semester.

Governor Phalin asked if faculty are responsible for reviewing all information included in all teaching materials or only assigned readings. Ms. Sikes clarified that instructors would only be responsible for reviewing assigned readings.

Chair Cerio presented a floor amendment to section (2) of the regulation as follows, "All faculty or instructors must attest that they will review all required materials for each course they teach each semester before the materials are presented or assigned to the students." Chair Cerio explained that the amendment would require faculty to review materials before assignment but not before courses begin, allowing instructors flexibility in assigning reading materials.

Governor Phalin noted that the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates is drafting a document of best practices for textbook adoption and review.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve, with the floor amendment, the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.003, Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency. Governor Edge moved to approve, Governor Brinkman seconded, and the motion passed.

8. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 10.015, Institutes and Centers

Chair Cerio recognized Ms. Sikes to provide an overview of the proposal to amend Board of Governors Regulation 10.015, Institutes and Centers.

Ms. Sikes noted that the remaining regulations on the agenda are a product of Board staff review alongside universities at the direction of Board Chair Lamb to identify inefficiencies and reduce university reporting requirements. She noted that the next five amendments on the agenda would reduce a reporting requirement or repeal a regulation.

Board Chair Lamb commended staff at the universities for working with the Board to streamline reporting requirements.

Ms. Sikes explained that the proposed amendment to Regulation 10.015, Institutes and Centers, removes a requirement for institutes and centers to be evaluated by Board staff every seven years, instead delegating that responsibility to university boards of trustees. She added that universities would still need to annually certify that institutes and centers are in compliance with all Florida statutes and Board of Governors' regulations. Ms. Sikes stated that the proposed amendment also clarifies definitions and processes for establishing, modifying, and closing a center or institute. She noted that Board staff worked with universities to improve efficiency and decided to reclassify the System's two Academic Infrastructure and Support Organizations as institutes and centers. Ms. Sikes added that the Chancellor must be notified if there are changes to the Memorandums of Understanding for the two reclassified centers.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 10.015, Institutes and Centers. Governor Phalin moved to approve, Governor Edge seconded, and the motion passed.

9. Public Notice of Intent to Repeal Board of Governors Regulation 10.014, Academic Infrastructure and Support Organizations

Ms. Sikes presented that the proposed amendment to Regulation 10.015, Institutes and Center, reclassifies the System's only existing Academic Infrastructure and Support Organizations, therefore removing the need for Regulation 10.014.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Repeal Board of Governors Regulation 10.014, Academic Infrastructure and Support Organizations. Governor Phalin moved to approve, Governor Edge seconded, and the motion passed.

10. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.007, Articulation

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Lynn Nelson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Innovation, to provide an overview of the proposal to amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.007, Articulation.

Dr. Nelson reported that the proposed amendment would implement a legislative change from the 2024 session. This change established a Specialized Associate in Arts Transfer Degree, allowing students to maintain financial aid eligibility while in specialized associate in arts degree programs exceeding 60 credit hours. She also noted that the proposed amendment would make several changes to 2+2 Enhancement programs. She specified that the amendment would rename the programs to 2+2 Targeted Pathway Articulation Agreements to align with Florida Statutes and remove the requirement for institutions to submit the rubric for self-evaluation, replacing it with a report on enrollment and student success.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.007, Articulation. Governor Edge moved to approve, Governor Bell Barnett seconded, and the motion passed.

11. Public Notice of Intent to Repeal Board of Governors Regulation 8.010, Common Prerequisites

Dr. Nelson explained that the proposed amendment to Regulation 8.007, Articulation, includes the language from Regulation 8.010, therefore removing the need for a separate regulation on common prerequisites.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Repeal Board of Governors Regulation 8.010, Common Prerequisites. Governor Edge moved to approve, Governor Diaz seconded, and the motion passed.

12. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.013, Specialized Admissions

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Lynn Nelson to provide an overview of the proposal to amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.013, Specialized Admissions.

Dr. Nelson explained that the proposed amendment would streamline reporting by removing the requirement for universities to annually provide documentation on meeting the criteria for specialized admissions programs. She reported that this documentation is required for initial consideration of specialized admissions status

and that the Board must consider recertification of the status every four to five years. Dr. Nelson added that the only reporting requirement for universities would be to annually verify that admissions requirements for each specialized program align with the requirements approved by the Board.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.013, Specialized Admissions. Governor Edge moved to approve, Governor Brinkman seconded, and the motion passed.

13. Academic Program Request

A. Ph.D. Comparative Biomedical Sciences, CIP 26.0102, University of Florida

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an overview of the University of Florida's program proposal for a Ph.D. in Comparative Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. Nelson reported the proposed program's focus is on advanced research training in the biomedical sciences, oriented toward finding solutions for diseases in animal and human populations. She noted that it is a Program of Strategic Emphasis and added that graduates would be prepared for research roles in academia, government, non-profit organizations, and the private sector. Dr. Nelson provided an overview of projected student headcounts, job demand, and tuition costs for the proposed program.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the proposed Ph.D. in Comparative Biomedical Sciences, CIP 26.0102, at the currently approved graduate tuition rate of \$530.69 per credit hour for resident students and \$1,255.41 per credit hour for non-resident students, with a program implementation date of fall 2025. Governor Phalin moved to approve, Governor Frost seconded, and the motion passed.

14. Academic and Student Affairs Updates

A. Florida Student Association (FSA)

Governor John Brinkman, Chair of the Florida Student Association, provided an overview of the organization's role and activities. He reported that the University of Florida was looking to include institutions across the System in a recent campaign to increase voter turnout for student elections.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS)

Governor Amanda Phalin, Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates, provided an update on recent activities. Governor Phalin encouraged the Board to work with faculty on identifying institutional strengths, assessing faculty performance, and fostering collaboration as the Board develops its next strategic plan for the System.

8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Cerio adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

Tim Cerio, Chair

Vincent Scuteri,
Policy Associate