

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Zoom
May 15th, 2025
Full Board

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<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/5-15-25-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/>

1. Call to Order.

Chair Brian Lamb called to order the Full Board portion of the meeting. Rachel Kamoutsas called the roll. Chair Lamb, Vice Chair Levine, Governor Bell Barnett, Brinkman, Cerio, Diaz, Edge, Frost, Good, Haddock, Jones, Lydecker,¹ Mateer, Phalin, Renner, and Silagy were present, and a quorum was met.

2. Chair's Report.

Chair Lamb recognized the State University System's No. 1 ranking for 4-year graduation rate, as it previously sat at No. 2. The 2-year graduation rate has also elevated to No. 1. He emphasized the idea of progress, noting that it is much harder to move from 2 to 3 and then 2 to 1.

3. Chancellor's Report.

Chancellor Rodrigues reflected on the tragic events of April 17th, 2025, that took place on Florida State University's main campus. He asked that the universities assess the security of their campuses and ability to execute a lockdown drill, specifically, whether windows can be protected and doors locked. In October 2025, a safety summit will be held for universities to share best practices and their results from their assessments of their own institutions. The goal would be to identify where to improve and areas of concern that can roll up into any policy or legislative requests.

Chancellor Rodrigues then discussed the legislative session and updates surrounding the resolution to adjourn and shift focus to agreeing on a budget. At the time of the meeting, the budget and tax cut package remained open items.

Fewer policy bills impacting higher education were filed and adopted this year. Chancellor Rodrigues listed the following bills as potentially influential to the State University System of Florida (All bills have been passed through the Senate and the House and will be sent to the Governor of Florida):

¹ Present but camera off at the time of roll call; participated later in the Full Board meeting.

Bill 1255, Bright Futures eligibility was extended to graduate students whose parent(s) or guardian(s) have retired from the military or public service 12 months prior to graduation. Also, the State Board of Education and Board of Governors were authorized to identify a national consortium to assist in high school general education courses, and the preeminence statute was updated to include CLT scores as part of the criteria.

Bill 584 requires institutions to work with the state office of homelessness to prioritize the placement of students who are or were in foster care and students experiencing homelessness to be more swiftly housed by the institutions.

Bill 549 updates the identification of the Gulf of America and requires future educational materials to include this identification. This is the only bill signed by the Governor at this time.

Bill 875 is for educator preparation. It requires that all teacher preparation programs include a uniform curriculum also identified in statute, by August 1st, 2027.

Bill 112 establishes new responsibilities for the Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment at the University of Florida.

Bill 907 codifies the Pediatric Institute for Rare Diseases within the Florida State University College of Medicine, also creating a consortium of several system institutions.

Bill 892 creates FSU's Election Law Center location within the FSU College of Law.

Bill 312 modifies the governance and reporting requirements for the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition location at the University of West Florida. This provides authority for creating not-for-profit subsidiaries by the Board of the IHMC.

Bill 1445 requires that members of the board(s) of trustees be U.S. citizens and either a Florida resident or a graduate of the university on which the board sits. This bill also defines office for dual office purposes. Board of Governors members must also be U.S. citizens, Florida residents, or graduates of an institution within the State University System of Florida.

Finally, Chancellor Rodrigues reported that the House settlement was not approved by Judge Wilkins. Athletes objected, claiming they would be harmed by roster limits and that current athletes holding specific positions on rosters would be harmed as well. Additional briefing, proposals, and considerations remain for the court to take up.

4. Public Comment.

Rachel Kamoutsas introduced the first public commenter, Mike Sanderson. He discussed the Office of Inspector General and Compliance work plan as well as concerns over NCF's financial transparency and management.

5. Presidential Search Reports.

Chair Lamb then began discussing the presidential search reports and gave the floor to Governor Lydecker. Governor Lydecker reported that search consultants for the University

of Florida spoke to hundreds of prospects, and most final contenders were current sitting presidents from across the United States. After completing these interviews, the Search committee arrived at a consensus that Dr. Santa J. Ono was the most qualified and competitive finalist. Because Dr. Ono and other sitting presidents involved in the search would only participate if their names remained confidential and that they would be the only finalist named, the search committee determined it would be infeasible to have more than one finalist. Accordingly, the committee recommended Dr. Ono as the sole finalist for the UF search.

Governor Jones then reported that the University of South Florida's presidential search committee held an organizational meeting and is working to organize a town hall to gather input on the search from the public.

FIU Chair Tovar reported that following the interim appointment of Jeanette M. Nuñez to Florida International University, the search committee retained Funk and Associates, a search firm, to engage in the search. He described the composition of the search committee and recognized the great work of Carlos Duarte, who chaired the search committee. The FIU presidential search committee identified and interviewed candidates and identified finalists to move forward. However, 2 of the 3 candidates declined to move forward unless they were the sole finalist. The Committee determined that due to Jeanette M. Nuñez's record of leadership and her unique qualifications, Ms. Nuñez was selected as the sole finalist to be considered by the FIU Board of Trustees.

Governor Levine then reported that Florida A&M University's search committee has concluded its work with a final recommendation for the range of compensation for their next president. Four final contenders were selected to be interviewed in the days following the meeting. The Board of Trustees will consider the range of compensation and make a final selection for the next permanent president.

6. Consent Agenda.

Chair Lamb made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Governor Phalin asked to pull off the consent agenda, Public Notice of Approval of Amendments to Regulation 7.008. Chair Lamb said that this regulation was approved by the board and removed it from the consent agenda, for further consideration. Governor Phalin reminded the Board of her concerns surrounding the regulation from before and restated such concerns in the present meeting. It was moved by Governor Lydecker and properly seconded by Governor Good, and the motion carried. Governor Phalin voted in opposition of the motion.

The Full Consent Agenda was then moved by Governor Levine and properly seconded by Governor Phalin, and the consent agenda was approved.

7. Chair's Conclusion.

Chair Lamb adjourned the meeting.