

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
March 26, 2025

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

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/3-26-25-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/>

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Cerio convened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. with the following Governors present: Cerio, Bell Barnett, Brinkman, Diaz, Frost, Haddock, and Phalin. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the committee meeting minutes for January 30, 2025. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Bell Barnett seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

3. Academic Program Request

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Lynn Nelson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Innovation, to provide an overview of the University of Central Florida's (UCF) proposed Ph.D. program in Planetary and Space Sciences.

Dr. Nelson reported that UCF's proposed Ph.D. in Planetary and Space Sciences aligns with one of the focus areas in the university's strategic plan and is an existing track under UCF's Physics program. She stated that the proposed program is multidisciplinary and includes topics such as astrochemistry, AI and computation, and instrument development. Dr. Nelson noted that the proposed doctoral program would be the first in the System in this CIP code if approved.

Dr. Nelson reported that graduates of this program will be prepared for jobs such as astronomers, atmospheric and space scientists, and postsecondary faculty. She noted that these areas are projected to grow in Florida between nearly four and twelve percent through 2032. She added that there were letters of support for the program from NASA, the International Space Station National Laboratory, and Redwire.

Dr. Nelson noted that UCF plans to charge the currently approved graduate tuition rate of \$369.65 per credit hour for resident students and \$1,194.05 per credit hour for non-resident students.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the University of Central Florida's Ph.D. in Planetary and Space Sciences, CIP 40.0203, at the currently approved graduate tuition rate of \$369.65 per credit hour for resident students and \$1,194.05 per credit hour for nonresident students, with a program implementation date of fall 2025. Governor Phalin moved to approve, and Governor Frost seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

4. Academic and Student Affairs Updates

A. Florida Student Association (FSA)

Chair Cerio recognized Governor Brinkman to provide the Academic and Student Affairs Update. Governor Brinkman thanked fellow governors for a great year and reflected on his time serving on the Board. Chair Cerio and Board Chair Lamb expressed gratitude towards Governor Brinkman.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS)

Chair Cerio recognized Governor Phalin to provide an update on the activities of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates. Governor Phalin thanked fellow governors and the staff of the Board of Governors for their commitment and passion for serving the students and faculty of Florida's public higher education system. Chair Cerio and Board Chair Lamb thanked Governor Phalin for her advocacy and service.

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Cerio adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Tim Cerio, Chair

Rosary Pericone
Academic and Student Affairs Intern