

**MINUTES**  
**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**Florida Atlantic University**  
**June 18, 2025**  
**Full Board**

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

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/6-18-25-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/>

**1. Call to Order.**

Chair Brian Lamb called to order the Full Board meeting. Rachel Kamoutsas called the roll. Chair Lamb, Vice Chair Levine, Governors Bell Barnett, Cerio, Dale, Diaz, Dunn, Edge, Frost, Good, Haddock, Jones, Lydecker, Mateer, Oliva, Renner, and Silagy were present, and a quorum was met.

**2. Chair's Report.**

Chair Lamb acknowledged Florida Atlantic University (FAU) for hosting and reported that the Academic and Research Excellence Committee had been postponed to the next meeting due to time constraints.

**3. Chancellor's Report.**

Chancellor Rodrigues reported that the state budget is under review by Governor DeSantis and the overall budget is \$3 billion less than last year. Higher education faced a ~\$120 million reduction, mainly from cutting recruitment and retention funds. Significant debt repayment and reserve funds are noted.

He reported that the Florida State University System has only 62 administrators per 1,000 students, which is below the national average of 71. Ivy League and major flagships average 160. Overall, though, Florida's system is framed as more efficient than most peers.

**4. Public Comment.**

Rachel Kamoutsas reported that there were 18 public commenters.

The first comment was made by Chiquisha Kidd. She spoke against appointing Marva Johnson as the Florida A&M University president.

The second comment was made by Greg Perkins. He spoke against appointing Marva Johnson as the Florida A&M University president.

The third comment was made by Kimberly Godwin. She spoke against appointing Marva Johnson as the Florida A&M University president.

The fourth comment was made by Harold Ford. He spoke against appointing Marva Johnson as the Florida A&M University president.

The fifth comment was made by Jonah Miller. He spoke in support of appointing Marva Johnson as the Florida A&M University president.

The sixth comment was made by Devin Nobles. He spoke in support of appointing Marva Johnson as the Florida A&M University president.

The seventh comment was made by Gabrielle Albert. She spoke in support of appointing Marva Johnson as the Florida A&M University president.

The eighth comment was made by Mike Sanderson. He spoke in support of appointing Marva Johnson as the Florida A&M University president.

The ninth comment was made by Gwenell Mingo. She spoke in support of appointing Marva Johnson as the Florida A&M University president.

The tenth comment was made by Iyana Bridges. She spoke in support of appointing Marva Johnson as the Florida A&M University president.

The eleventh comment was made by Serenity Newsome. She spoke against appointing Marva Johnson as the Florida A&M University president.

The twelfth comment was made by Brianna Dudley. She spoke against appointing Marva Johnson as the Florida A&M University president.

The thirteenth comment was made by Kristin Hood. She spoke against appointing Marva Johnson as the Florida A&M University president.

The fourteenth comment was made by Angelo Petty. He spoke against appointing Marva Johnson as the Florida A&M University president.

The fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth commenters recorded their comments electronically.

Rachel Kamoutsas concluded this portion of the meeting.

## **5. Moffitt Cancer Center.**

Chair Lamb gave the floor to the Moffitt Cancer Center general counsel, Chip Fletcher. Fletcher requested the creation of two new limited liability companies: one being a holding company and the other, an operative company. A motion was made and properly seconded and the motion carried.

## **6. Board Recognitions.**

Chair Lamb first recognized the University of West Florida (UWF) President, Martha Saunders, upon her resolution. He commended her for over 30 years of service to UWF and gave thanks.

He then recognized Governor Amanda Phalin upon her resolution. He commended her for her work with the University of Florida (UF) and gave her thanks.

He then recognized Governor John Brinkman upon his resolution. He commended him for his work representing his university and its student body and gave her thanks.

He then recognized the Florida International University (FIU) Chair, Rogelio “Roger” Tovar, upon his resolution. He commended him for his work and gave thanks.

He asked the Board to join to celebrate the accomplishments and asked the board to accept the resolutions. A motion was made, properly seconded, and the motion carried.

## **7. Presidential Confirmations.**

Chair Lamb began the presidential confirmations with president elect, Jeanette Nuñez, for FIU. Chair Carlos Duart presented Nuñez to the Board and asked for approval.

Kimberly Dunn asked President Nuñez about how she would handle learning curves as well as faculty trust. Nuñez responded by saying that she plans to address various institutional barriers and belief in the faculty.

Governor Cerio asked President Nuñez how she would approach viewpoint diversity and engagement in civil discourse. President Nuñez shared that those opportunities are important for students and staff for exposure to different viewpoints.

The motion was made, properly seconded, and the motion carried. Jeanette Nuñez was appointed President of FIU.

Chair Lamb then gave the floor to Chair Harper and Vice Chair Gibbons. Gibbons gave a formal presentation for Marva Johnson to the Board as the presidential candidate. Chair Lamb gave the floor to Marva Johnson.

Johnson thanked the Board and expressed her gratitude for their consideration as FAMU's 13<sup>th</sup> president. She first thanked Chair Harper and the search committee for their work and ensured her desire to expand on their fairness and advancement of student opportunities. She promised to protect and elevate FAMU's legacy, forge new paths of excellence and preeminence, and her overall dedication to the betterment of FAMU.

She shared her goal to begin small group listening tours before taking office and give her full attention the community during her first 3-090 days in office.

After various board members gave complimentary statements, Governor Silagy asked Chair Harper to confirm the search committee voting ratio, which she stated was 8:4.

Governor Cerio then asked questions about her views on the State University System's Statement of Free Expression, to which she responded that she agrees with the statement and is committed to its principles.

Governor Jones then emphasized Johnson's choice to leave the private sector and embark on a public service journey is commendable.

Governor Renner emphasized the Board's goals for growing excellence and his belief that Johnson fits these ideals.

Governor Frost shared a complimentary speech in support of Johnson's appointment and considers the board lucky to have had her present as the final candidate.

Chair Lamb asked a final, overriding question to Chair Harper and Vice Chair Gibbons; whether the FAMU Board of Trustees (BOT) will continue to listen to the voices surrounding FAMU, including the Board of Governors, and its associated leadership to maintain decorum within the BOT, to which they both said that they will.

Governor Levine made a motion to appoint Marva Johnson as the 13<sup>th</sup> president of FAMU, which was seconded by Governor Jones, and the motion was carried.

Chair Lamb then gave the floor to Chair Rebecca Matthews on behalf of the University of West Florida (UWF) to confirm Manny Diaz Jr. as president. After Matthews gave a formal presentation for Diaz, Chair Lamb reminded the Board of Diaz' status as an ex officio member of the BOG and, as sitting Commissioner of Education, would not be given the ability to vote on this matter. Rachel Kamoutsas read aloud these restrictions.

Governor Silagy asked Chair Matthews if she'd ever tried to talk previous UWF President, Martha Saunders, out of retirement, to which she replied that she had not. He then asked if it was ever considered to have Martha Saunders serve as interim president, to which Matthews responded that she did not due to Saunder's explicit volunteered, ongoing assistance to the search process in her resignation letter. Governor Silagy then asked Matthews if she will be engaging in a robust, thoughtful search following the appointment of Interim President Diaz, to which she replied that she would. Governor Silagy asked Commissioner Diaz if he would be interested in becoming the permanent president of UWF, to which he responded that he would be. He then asked about the differences in interim financial agreements, to which Matthews shared that the differences are due to differing circumstances considered.

Governor Dunn then asked how Commissioner Diaz plans on engaging with the faculty, to which he responded that his connections with the faculty are evolving and genuine and looking to success.

Vice Chair Levine called a motion to approve Manny Diaz Jr. as the interim president of UWF, which was seconded by Governor Renner, and the motion was carried.

## **8. Consent Agenda.**

Chair Lamb called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was moved and properly seconded, and the motion carried.

**9. Chair's Conclusion.**

Chair Lamb adjourned the meeting.