

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

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<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/5-8-24-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/>

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks.

Mr. Alan Levine, Chair, convened the Budget and Finance Committee meeting at 8:39 a.m. on September 11, 2025. Members present for the roll call were Chair Levine, Ken Jones, Timothy Cerio, Carson Dale, Pat Frost, and Brian Lamb. Charlie Lydecker and Eric Silagy were not present.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Mr. Levine introduced the first order of business, approving the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on July 11, 2025.

Chair Brian Lamb moved that the Committee approve the meeting minutes from July 11, 2025. Mr. Ken Jones seconded the motion, and members of the Committee concurred.

3. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 9.013- Auxiliary Operations.

Mr. Levine introduced the next item on the agenda. To approve the Amendment to Board of Governors Regulation 9.013- Auxiliary Operations. This regulation was amended on an emergency basis at the June board meeting. With Judicial developments becoming effective July 1, 2025, due to the approval of the House v. NCAA settlement on June 6th, the universities began having the option of directly sharing revenue with student athletes starting July. Emergency regulations typically expire in 90 days, so this is the initiation for the normal amendment process.

Mr. Levine asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend the Board of Governors Regulation 9.013- Auxiliary Operations. Mr. Jones motioned, and Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. Members of the Committee concurred.

4. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 7.008- Waivers and Exemptions of Tuition and Fees

Mr. Levine introduced the next item on the agenda. To approve the Amendment to the Board of Governors Regulation 7.008- Waivers and Exemptions of Tuition and Fees. This amendment will align the regulation with recent statutory changes to the program's Strategic Emphasis Waiver Program. The changes will require the universities to waive

100% of out-of-pocket expenses, Tuition and Fees after other federal, state, and institutional gift aid has been applied. He stated Mrs. Sarah deNagy was present to answer any questions anyone might have.

Mr. Levine asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend the Board of Governors Regulation 7.008- Waivers and Exemptions of Tuition and Fees. Mr. Jones motioned, and Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. Members of the Committee concurred.

5. 2025-2026 State University System Operating Budgets

Mr. Levine introduced the next item on the agenda. To approve the 2025-2026 State University System Operating Budgets. Regulation 9.007 requires review and approval each year. Budgets have been approved by the University Board of Trustees, which are reviewed at a high level, and it is incumbent on the Board of Trustees and Presidents to monitor and manage their budgets accordingly. Staff reviewed the budgets to ensure compliance with the statutes and with our regulations. He stated to the group that Mrs. deNagy is present to answer any questions anyone may have.

Mr. Levine asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve the 2025-2026 State University System Operating Budget as presented. Mr. Jones motioned, and Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. Members of the Committee concurred.

6. Student Success Plan- Florida Gulf Coast University

Mr. Levine introduced the next item on the agenda. To approve the Florida Gulf Coast University – Student Success Plan. He stated that at the June Board Meeting, they reviewed the University's performance funding scores, and they scored below 70 points. That required the university, under our regulations, to make a Student Success Plan. If the Board approves the student success plan today, then they can release 50% of their funding, or \$4,016,358 of the state investment. The final report on the Student Success Plan will be submitted in March to show if they have met their goals. He then asked President Aysegul Timur to present their plan after they observed the statewide moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. to remember those whose lives were lost and affected by the events of September 11th. After their moment of silence, he led them in prayer.

President Timur presents Florida Gulf Coast University's Student Success Plan.

Mr. Brian Lamb commented that he would like to hear more about the leadership changes that Florida Gulf Coast University has made and introduce them if they are present at the meeting.

President Timur introduced Florida Gulf Coast University's new Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Debbie Thorne. As well as Vice President and Vice Provost for Student Success and Enrollment Management, Dr. Paul Dosejo. New General Counsel, Dr. Christy Carmen, and new Vice President, Student, Strategic Initiatives, and Chief of Staff, Dr. Eileen Deluca. She stated that now, with her new leadership team, she feels like she has the right team to move forward with.

Mr. Levine agreed and asked if there were any further questions or comments. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve the Florida Gulf Coast University- Student Success Plan, authorizing the release of \$4,016,358 in state investment funds to Florida Gulf Coast. Mr. Jones motioned, and Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. Members of the Committee concurred.

Mr. Levine took a minute to introduce Ben Watkins and allow him to say a few words.

Mr. Ben Watkins introduced himself and gave the members some information and updates on activities the universities are engaged in.

Mr. Levine asked if there were any further questions or comments for President Timur. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve the Florida Gulf Coast University- Student Success Plan, authorizing the release of the funds to Florida Gulf Coast. Mr. Lamb motioned, and Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Members of the Committee concurred.

7. 2026-2027 State University System Legislative Budget Request

Mr. Levine introduced the next item on the agenda. Is the consideration of the 2026-2027 State University System Legislative Budget Request is submitted to the legislature and the Governor by September 15th in preparation for the 2026 session which begins in January. He asked the Chancellor if he would like to make a comment.

Chancellor Ray Rodrigues commented that he wanted to clarify the legislative budget request that they are seeing is for the SUS and the Board Office. Once they get to the Facilities Committee they will review the PECO list, and a request for deferred maintenance.

Mr. Levine thanked Chancellor Rodrigues for the clarification and continued to explain the Legislative Budget Request as the slides are shown.

From Fiscal Year 2021-22 through 2024-25, the legislature and the Governor approved nearly \$1.5 billion in incremental funding for the state university system. The SUS total budget declined by \$123 million in 2025-26. The Governor and the legislature prioritized reducing the entire state budget last session. The State University System was no exception. The message from the Governor and the Legislature is that they plan to keep the spending down during this next legislative session. So, we are keeping our budget recommendation tight and only asking for the priorities.

Our number one priority is Performance-Based Funding. The Board recommends increasing the performance-based funding State Investment incentive next year by \$50 million, from \$350M to \$400M. A big component of maintaining our #1 ranking is our success in Performance-Funding.

The Board is also recommending \$125 million in preeminence funding. The investment in the preeminent universities has contributed to the rise of our state universities in the national rankings. Universities designated as preeminent would receive an equal amount of this state funding.

The Board also recommends \$100 million for the Performance-Based Recruitment & Retention Initiative. Funds will be used to retain existing and recruit new university full-time instructional and research personnel. Funds will also be used to recognize and honor exceptional achievements of full-time instructional and research personnel. Funds will be distributed to universities based on their total maximum Performance-Based Funding excellence scores, weighted by the number of full-time faculty and researchers employed in programs of strategic emphasis.

Lastly the Board recommends \$6.4 million for the UF/IFAS workload. The UF/IFAS workload formula is a cost-to-continue funding model that provides for increased research and extension workload demand. The formula was developed at the request of and approved by the Florida Board of Governors. The formula ensures UF/IFAS can continue to serve every county in the state of Florida. And finally, the Board is recommending \$3.1 million for State Fire Marshal Inspections,

which we are statutorily required to do each year.

Mr. Levine noted individual university budget priorities, totaling over \$800 million, are included in the meeting materials. This is asked of every university each year for the upcoming session.

Mr. Levine asked if there were any further questions or comments. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve the 2026-2027 State University System LBR as presented and authorize the Chancellor to make technical adjustments as necessary. Mr. Lamb motioned, and Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Members of the Committee concurred.

8. 2026-2027 Board of Governors Office Legislative Budget Request

Mr. Levine introduced the next item on the agenda. To approve the 2026-2027 Board of Governors Office Legislative Budget Request. He asked Mrs. deNagy to present it to the Committee.

Mrs. deNagy presented the Board Office Legislative Budget Request. This request included three items. First a request for \$300,000 to conduct the intellectual survey, which is a statutory requirement. This funding is divided equally between the state universities and the Florida college system. This was funding as a non-recurring item in the current fiscal year, and the Board is asking that the funding be restored. Second, the Board is recommending two additional positions in the Board Office, a Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Deputy General Counsel. These positions will ensure that the Board Office is appropriately staffed for the future. Lastly, the Board is recommending the restoration of three positions that were previously eliminated. The Board Office has 66 positions and are currently filled at 92%. This restoration of these positions will allow the Board Office to provide improved efficiency and productivity.

Mr. Levine asked if there were any questions for Mrs. deNagy?

Seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Board Office Legislative Budget Request, authorizing the Chancellor to make technical adjustments as necessary. Mr. Jones motioned, and Mr. Cerio seconded the motion. Members of the Committee concurred.

9. SUS 30 Operational Excellence Metrics

Mr. Levine introduced the next item on the agenda. To approve the SUS 30 Operational Excellence Metrics for the SUS 30 Strategic Plan. He stated that they discussed the metrics at the June meeting. The Board's Strategic Plan includes five priority areas. One of those areas is Operational Excellence that focuses on Financial Health & Integrity and Optimizing Funds. Board Staff, in collaboration with the Council for Administrative and Financial Affairs, recommends financial metrics that would be part of a dashboard that monitors the financial health of the system. In addition, operational efficiency metrics are proposed to ensure that funds are being utilized efficiently and effectively. There is one metric that was not discussed in June, which is Space Utilization. This metric will measure the amount of time that certain spaces are utilized within educational facilities, based on a predetermined timeframe and the type of space. A workgroup made up of university staff and Board staff will make recommendations for metrics in this area over the next several months.

Mr. Levine asked if there were any further questions or comments. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve the SUS 30 Operational Excellence Metrics as presented for the SUS 30 Strategic Plan. Mr. Jones motioned, and Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. Members of the Committee concurred.

10. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Mr. Levine asked if there was any other business from Committee members. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

Alan Levine, Chair

Sarah deNagy,
Preparer of Meeting Minutes