

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
September 11, 2025

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<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/9-11-25-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/>

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks.

Chair Cerio convened the meeting at 10:14 a.m. with the following Governors present: Cerio, Bell Barnett, Dale, Dunn, Frost, Haddock, and Kamoutsas. A quorum was established.

Chair Cerio started the meeting by commenting on the Board's longstanding commitment to free expression and civil discourse, referencing the adoption of the Statement on Free Expression five years ago. He recognized the universities' efforts to expand opinion diversity and host speakers across the political spectrum. Chair Cerio emphasized the need to increase these efforts in light of recent national events and thanked institutions for fostering respectful dialogue and protecting campus communities.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the committee meeting minutes for June 18, 2025. Governor Kamoutsas moved to approve, Governor Dunn seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

3. SUS 30: 2+2 Targeted Pathway Agreements

Chair Cerio recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to provide an overview of the State University System's 2+2 targeted pathway agreements.

Ms. Sikes reported that the pathways, established in statute in 2019, provide Florida College System students with guided transfer opportunities and guaranteed access to a state university. She noted that all 12 universities partner with at least one state college, resulting in 37 pathway programs, and about one-third of transfer students now enter the System through these agreements.

Ms. Sikes stated this was the first Systemwide collection of data on pathway participation and graduation outcomes. She noted that the pathway students showed strong two- and three-year graduation rates and highlighted the rates at Florida State University (FSU) and Florida International University (FIU).

Ms. Sikes indicated that the Board office has shared the results with the Florida College System and university presidents and will continue working with Ms. Kathy Hebda, Chancellor of the Florida College System, to track outcomes and share best practices.

Ms. Jeanette M. Nuñez, President of Florida International University, noted that FIU's targeted pathway program has been highly successful, with student feedback confirming the benefits of early advising and access to university resources.

Dr. Richard McCullough, President of Florida State University, commented that FSU's targeted pathway program provides intensive advising and individualized support, contributing to record graduation rates that have increased each of the past four years.

Governor Anastasios Kamoutsas, Commissioner of the Florida Department of Education, commended FSU for its strong partnership with Tallahassee State College (TSC), highlighting the seamless transfer process, extensive student support, and positive feedback from TSC leadership and staff.

4. Board of Governors Regulations

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

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

Ms. Sikes explained that the proposed amendment enhances transparency by requiring universities to post current syllabi for all courses at least 45 days before the start of the term in the same location as the posting of textbooks and instructional materials. The proposed amendment requires that the syllabi remain posted for five years. She noted that the proposed amendment specifies minimum content requirements for the syllabi, allows the list of instructional materials to be searched by general education designation, and exempts individualized courses such as independent study, internships, theses, dissertations, and performances from the requirement. Ms. Sikes reported that the draft of the proposed amendment has been shared with universities and that feedback has been incorporated into the proposed amendment.

Governor Dunn asked about the process for faculty to revise syllabi when new information becomes available and requested clarification on the definition of instructional materials.

Ms. Sikes stated that the amendment does not prescribe a process for syllabus revisions, allowing universities flexibility to set timelines, with updates expected to be reflected in the online repository. She clarified that instructional materials refer to textbooks and assigned readings.

Governor Dunn recommended omitting the requirement for course syllabi to include student assignments. She explained that this level of detail is difficult to include in advance.

Chair Cerio confirmed with Ms. Amanda Gay, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for the State University System, that striking the student assignments while retaining the required readings remains in compliance with statute.

Ms. Sikes clarified that removing student assignments from the syllabi would not prevent universities from adopting more specific requirements, as the regulation sets only the minimum standards.

Governor Dale complimented Board staff for their work on the regulation and noted that students are excited about the initiative.

Governor Kamoutsas stated that retaining student assignments in the regulation would ensure transparency and help students make informed course selections.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation 8.003, Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability and Transparency, with the language “student assignments” stricken from section 3(a). Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Dale seconded the motion, Governor Kamoutsas opposed, and the motion passed.

B. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation 6.002, Admission of Undergraduate First-Time-in-College, Degree-Seeking Freshmen

Chair Cerio recognized Ms. Sikes to provide an overview of the proposed amendment to Board of Governors Regulation 6.002, Admission of Undergraduate First-Time-in-College, Degree-Seeking Freshmen.

Ms. Sikes stated that the proposed amendment clarifies that universities may not require part-time enrollment as a condition of admission. The proposed amendment does not prohibit students from choosing to enroll part-time. She noted that the proposed amendment establishes a five percent cap on part-time new first-time-in-college enrollment, unless an exception is approved by the Chancellor.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation 6.002, Admission of Undergraduate First-Time-in-College, Degree-Seeking Freshmen. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Kamoutsas seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

C. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation, 7.005, Residency for Tuition Purposes

Chair Cerio recognized Ms. Sikes to provide an overview of the proposed amendment to Board of Governors Regulation 7.005, Residency for Tuition Purposes.

Ms. Sikes stated that the strike-all amendment removes outdated language, reorganizes the regulation, and aligns the regulation with Florida statute. She reported that the proposed amendment includes definitions and classifications related to residency, including clarifying the definition of independent students. The proposed amendment requires universities to adopt regulations for determining residency status. She noted that the proposed amendment was developed with the Florida College System staff to ensure consistency across systems, and recognized Mr. Jeremy Hudak, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, for his work on the revisions.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation 7.005, Residency for Tuition Purposes. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Dale seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

D. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation 6.001, General Admissions

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Lynn Nelson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Innovation, to provide an overview of the proposed amendment to Board of Governors Regulation 6.001, General Admissions.

Dr. Nelson stated that the proposed amendment would require universities to post all admissions criteria, including programmatic and specialized requirements, on the university's website and in the catalogs so that students can clearly identify the admissions requirements for all programs.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation 6.001, General Admissions. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Dale seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

E. Public Notice of Intent to Repeal Regulation 7.007, Latin American and Caribbean Scholarship Eligibility

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an overview of the proposal to repeal Board of Governors Regulation 7.007, Latin American and Caribbean Scholarship Eligibility.

Dr. Nelson stated that the regulation establishes the eligibility requirements for awarding the scholarship, and Board staff propose repealing the regulation to comply with federal law.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Repeal Regulation 7.007, Latin American and Caribbean Scholarship Eligibility. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Kamoutsas seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

5. Bachelor's Degree Exceptions to 120 Credit Hours Requirement

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an update on baccalaureate degree programs in the System that exceed 120 credit hours for the degree.

Dr. Nelson stated that Regulation 8.014 allows universities to request Board approval for a bachelor's degree program to exceed 120 credit hours when required by accreditation, licensure, or unique learning experiences. She reported that in January 2024, there were 98 programs with approved exceptions, with 95 of those exceptions approved before 2015, and three approved between 2015 and 2020.

Dr. Nelson explained that institutions were asked to review the curriculum in these programs and determine if the exception status was still needed. She noted that following the review, 19 programs reverted to 120 credit hours, 27 reduced their total credit hours to degree, and 52 maintained their exceptions, leaving 79 programs with the exception in the System. Dr. Nelson reported that several universities are still reviewing programs for opportunities to reduce the time to degree.

Dr. Nelson noted that 75 percent of the exceptions are for engineering programs, with all engineering programs in the System now offered at 128 credit hours or less. She also noted that two architecture programs require more than 120 credit hours, which allows graduates direct entry into the profession.

Chair Cerio commended faculty and administrators for reviewing programs above 120 credit hours and their efforts to reduce program hours. He encouraged the continued review of programs over 120 credit hours for opportunities to reduce the time to degree.

6. Articulation Coordinating Committee Items

- A. Credit or Clock Hour Postsecondary Credit for Military Training and Education List
- B. Credit or Clock Hour Postsecondary Credit for Military Medic Training and Education List

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an overview of the Articulation Coordinating Committee's (ACC) Credit or Clock Hour Postsecondary Credit for Military Training and Education List and the Credit or Clock Hour Postsecondary Credit for Military Medic Training and Education List.

Dr. Nelson stated that Florida statutes allow students to receive postsecondary credit for coursework and experience acquired through military service. She reported that discipline committees reviewed potential training courses and programs and made recommendations to the Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC). The ACC met in August and recommended equivalencies for 65 additional American Council on Education courses to be included on the equivalency list. Examples of courses include simulation and modeling, database management, counseling, and applied pharmacology.

Dr. Nelson explained that Florida statute also requires an annual review of military medic training and education. She noted that the ACC recommended equivalencies for the Army Health Care Combat Medic Specialist, the Navy Hospital Corpsman, and the Air Force Aerospace Medical Service Apprentice.

Dr. Nelson reported that, upon approval by the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, the equivalencies will be implemented uniformly across both systems.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the Articulation Coordinating Committee's Credit or Clock Hour Postsecondary Credit for Military Training and Education List. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Kamoutsas seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Chair Cerio then entertained a motion to approve the Credit or Clock Hour Postsecondary Credit for Military Medic Training and Education List. Governor Kamoutsas moved to approve, Governor Dunn seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

7. Academic Program Actions

A. M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, CIP 13.0401, New College of Florida

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an overview of New College of Florida's proposed M.Ed. in Educational Leadership.

Dr. Nelson reported that the proposed program will prepare students to serve as school principals and administrators at the K-12 levels. She said the program has been developed in consultation with the Florida Department of Education to align the program requirements with the required standards to be a state-approved Level One Educational Leadership Program.

Dr. Nelson reported that workforce demand for K–12 administrators in Florida is projected to grow by nearly six percent through 2032. She noted that Sarasota and Manatee school district leaders have expressed interest in collaborating with New College to provide opportunities for students in the program.

Dr. Nelson stated that the program will be funded through education and general funds and that New College plans to charge the currently approved graduate tuition rate for resident and non-resident students.

Mr. Richard Corcoran, President of New College of Florida, remarked that the program will help meet the demand for K–12 leaders, particularly in charter and classical schools, while preparing graduates to serve across all K–12 settings.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve New College of Florida's proposed M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, CIP 13.0401, pending approval by the Department of Education as a Level-One Educational Leadership Program. The program would be offered at the currently approved graduate tuition rate for resident and nonresident students, with a program implementation date of fall 2026. Governor Kamoutsas moved to approve, Governor Dale seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

B. Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders, CIP 51.0204, University of Central Florida

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an overview of the University of Central Florida's (UCF) proposed Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Dr. Nelson reported that the proposed program will be housed in the College of Health Professions and Sciences and will expand traditional speech-language pathology to include emerging technologies, advanced instrumentation, simulation, data analytics, and health care management. She stated that the program will prepare graduates for clinical, academic, and research positions, including advanced roles as speech-language pathologists and faculty in health specialties. Dr. Nelson noted that, if approved, the program would be the third program in the System.

Dr. Nelson reported that workforce demand for speech-language pathologists is projected to grow over eight percent in Florida through 2032 and by more than 18 percent nationally through 2033. She noted that the proposal included industry letters of support from Bose, Samsung, Sonova, and Brooks Rehabilitation.

Dr. Nelson noted that UCF plans to fund the program using education and general funds and to charge the currently approved graduate tuition rate for resident and non-resident students.

Dr. Alexander Cartwright, President of the University of Central Florida, remarked that the program is innovative by integrating technology with the study of communication disorders.

Chair Cerio requested a motion to approve the University of Central Florida's Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders, CIP 51.0204, at the currently approved graduate tuition rate for resident and nonresident students, with a program implementation date of fall 2026. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Kamoutsas seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

8. University of Florida Jacksonville Update

Chair Cerio recognized Mr. Kurt Dudas, Vice President for the University of Florida, to provide an update on the University of Florida Jacksonville site.

Mr. Dudas reported that the University of Florida (UF) had selected a site in the LaVilla neighborhood in downtown Jacksonville, and that the Jacksonville City Council had approved legislation to establish the campus. He stated that UF will welcome its first students in fall 2026 with initial master's programs in business, engineering, biomedical and health sciences, law, and architecture.

Mr. Dudas reported that the facility is scheduled for completion in 2029. He noted that UF plans to establish the Advanced Technology Center on the Jacksonville campus, co-locating the University of Florida's research and development programs to support the state's semiconductor industry.

Mr. Dudas stated that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on

Colleges has approved accreditation for the campus and its initial programs. He reported that marketing for enrollment will begin this fall and that hiring is underway for faculty and staff.

9. Academic and Student Affairs Updates

A. Florida Student Association

Governor Carson Dale, Chair of the Florida Student Association, reported that student governments across the System are expanding engagement opportunities, highlighting initiatives in student life, academics, and Greek life. He noted that the Florida Student Association has an active year planned, including advocacy events in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C., and commented on the importance of directly connecting the Board of Governors with students.

B. Advisory Council of Faculty Senates

Governor Kimberly Dunn, Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates, reported on efforts to strengthen communication and collaboration across the System, including hosting meetings with university presidents, faculty, and Board staff. The Council has also established several working groups, including those focused on performance-based funding metrics, speaker series, and national issues, to proactively address priorities and support the System.

10. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Cerio adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Tim Cerio, Chair

Ryan Ford,
Policy Associate