

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
November 6, 2025

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<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/9-11-25-florida-board-of-governors-meeting-part-1/>

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Ken Jones convened the meeting at 9:15 a.m., with the following Governors present: Jones, Oliva, Dale, Dunn, Frost, Good, Kamoutsas, and Renner. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Chair Jones requested a motion to approve the Strategic Planning Committee meeting minutes from September 11, 2025. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Good seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

3. Accreditation Update

Chair Jones recognized university presidents to provide updates on accreditation changes across the System.

Dr. Alexander Cartwright, President of the University of Central Florida (UCF), reported that the university submitted its final report and received feedback from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) about the site visit conducted on July 14, 2025. In that report, it was found that all the university's criteria had been met, and the university provided its institutional response on July 21, 2025. President Cartwright stated that he and several university colleagues attended an accreditation hearing in Chicago. On September 4, 2025, the university received the hearing outcome letter and the Higher Learning Commission's Institutional Actions Council hearing report, which found that UCF had met all criteria and metrics and recommended initial accreditation. The university is in the process of submitting its institutional response to the HLC board for final decision in November 2025. Dr. Cartwright recognized the hard work of Dr. Tim Letzring and others, whose work was instrumental during this process.

Governor Levine explained that the Board led nationally in seeking alternatives to accreditation with legislative support. He commended UCF for its progress and the Board for defending institutional governance.

Chancellor Rodrigues noted that while UCF faced challenges with accreditation changes under federal policies in the prior administration, its leadership helped prompt reforms that will ease the process under President Trump. He commended UCF for leading the way and signaled that its efforts will benefit institutions nationwide.

Chair Jones inquired about the length of time that has passed since UCF began the steps to change accreditors. President Cartwright responded that the accreditation process began in December 2022 and has taken nearly three years.

Dr. Moez Limayem, President of the University of North Florida (UNF), reported that the university will submit the second part of its application for preliminary review to HLC by the end of September 2025. He explained that the next step will be for HLC to provide the university with a peer review of its submission. Provided that the preliminary review is favorable, UNF will submit the third part of its application for comprehensive evaluation in January 2026 and prepare for a site visit in the spring of 2026. President Limayem noted that this process is being completed while the university is also working to maintain its existing accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS COC). He commented that SACS COC approved UNF for its fifth-year review.

Dr. Devin Stephenson, President of Florida Polytechnic University, reported that the university is submitting its final preliminary review to HLC. He noted that the university expects to complete the HLC accreditation process in 2027.

4. SUS 30: Areas of Expertise

Chair Jones recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to present an overview of the Areas of Expertise chosen by each of the institutions.

Ms. Sikes stated that the Areas of Expertise are part of the SUS 30 Strategic Plan. She explained that each university was asked to identify up to three Areas of Expertise that the institution wanted to prioritize. She noted that this could include priorities that a university is already invested in and new areas that a university is focusing on.

Ms. Sikes noted that most of the Areas of Expertise submitted by the universities aligned with areas in which each university is already excelling. She highlighted some common areas amongst the universities, such as healthcare and AI. Ms. Sikes commented that many of the Areas of Expertise reflect each university's strategic plan, initiatives supported by the legislature and the governor, and the workforce needs of Florida.

Board Chair Brian Lamb and Committee Chair Jones emphasized the importance of aligning the Areas of Expertise and areas of investment in some way. Chair Jones commented that there is ample time for Board members to provide feedback on the areas before the next Board meeting.

Ms. Sikes noted that the Areas of Expertise would be an agenda item for consideration and approval at the November 2025 Board meeting. She added that the Board staff intends to incorporate the metrics regarding the Areas of Expertise into each university's accountability plan, provided that the Board adopts and approves them in November.

5. SUS 30: Iconic Companies

Chair Jones recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to present an update on the list of Iconic Companies as part of the SUS 30 Strategic Plan.

Ms. Sikes explained that Board staff have developed a list of Iconic Companies to be used in the world-class talent priority metric. She explained that the selection of companies was based on rankings, employee and revenue data, and alignment with the workforce needs of Florida. Ms. Sikes commented on the need to continue re-evaluating the list and including more Florida-based companies. She reported that the Iconic Companies list will showcase partnerships among state universities. These partnerships would include student internships, faculty externships, and employment opportunities.

Board Chair Lamb encouraged the Board members to suggest additional Florida companies to be included in the list.

Governor Dunn inquired about the purpose of the Iconic Companies list. She encouraged the Board to consider ways to ensure value is also placed on entrepreneurship and small businesses.

Governor Levine explained that recruitments from large companies such as JPMorgan Chase suggest the likelihood of recruitment from smaller firms. He shared that he believes the Iconic Companies list would serve as an accurate measurement of the demand for State University System graduates in the workforce.

6. SUS 30: 2026 Accountability Plan Template

Chair Jones recognized Ms. Emily Sikes to present an overview of the 2026 accountability plan template, which was updated to align with the SUS 30 Strategic Plan.

Ms. Sikes explained that Board staff have worked to identify new metrics to be added to the 2026 Accountability Plan to track university progress. She presented the new metric, Areas of Expertise, and reported that specific System metrics within One SUS will potentially be included in the System strategic plan. Ms. Sikes also explained that key university rankings are also being used to track the progress of universities.

Ms. Sikes then provided examples of possible new metrics for elevating student success, including information related to student loans, Pell grants, and 2+2 Targeted Pathways. She also shared some new metrics for future consideration by the Board, which focus on tracking operational excellence and new metrics to track world-class talent. Ms. Sikes acknowledged the work of Governor Dunn and the Faculty Senate, thanking them for their insightful feedback on the possible metrics.

Chair Jones thanked Ms. Sikes for her presentation and encouraged other Board members to continue to work with her on the 2026 Accountability Plan. He noted that there will be another 2026 accountability plan template update at the November meeting.

7. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation 7.006 Limitation on Non-Resident Student Enrollment

Chair Jones recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to provide an overview of the proposed amendment.

Ms. Sikes explained that Regulation 7.006 is designed to support the needs of Florida students and ensure their access to our world-class State University System. She reported that there is currently a ten percent System-wide cap on non-resident student enrollment. Ms. Sikes explained that the proposed amendment would clarify that the System-wide limit only applies to undergraduate enrollment. She explained that the proposed amendment will also provide exemptions for some non-residents. This would include exemptions for students who receive non-resident tuition and fee waivers, which are intended by statute to encourage non-resident enrollment in the System. These waivers include students who have grandparents who are state residents and meet the required criteria, as well as certain military and veteran fee waiver programs. Ms. Sikes highlighted that the proposed amendment would exempt students who are entirely enrolled in distance learning courses from being included in the cap.

Chair Jones requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors' Regulation 7.006. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Frost seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

8. 2025-26 LINE Fund Proposals

Chair Jones recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to provide an overview of the LINE Fund Proposals.

Ms. Sikes reported that ten universities submitted LINE proposals, totaling 24 individual proposals, for the \$6,000,000 allocated by the Florida Legislature. Ms. Sikes stated that Board staff recommend approval of the proposals received.

Chair Jones requested a motion to approve the 2025-26 Line Fund Proposals. Governor Dunn moved to approve, and Governor Dale seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Having no further business, Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

Ken Jones, Chair

Rajendra Indar, Student Intern