

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
January 28, 2026

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<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/1-28-26-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/>

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Vice Chair Ken Jones convened the meeting at 4:00 p.m., with the following Governors present: Dale, Dunn, Good, Haddock, Mateer, and Sinatra. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Vice Chair Jones requested a motion to approve the Strategic Planning Committee meeting minutes from November 6, 2025, as well as the meeting minutes from the Performance-Based Funding (PBF) workshop, held on November 5, 2025. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Dale seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

3. Accreditation Update

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

Dr. Jeanette Nunez, President of Florida International University, stated that the university is currently preparing its application packet for submission to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and simultaneously preparing its fifth-year interim report for submission to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS). President Nunez added that the university sent notification of its intent to change accreditors to the United States Department of Education (USDOE) and received a quick response. Vice Chair Jones noted that the USDOE's timeframe for processing and acknowledging institutions' requests to change accreditors has been lengthy in the past. Chancellor Rodrigues commented that the USDOE now operates under the policy that approval may be presumed if an institution has not received acknowledgment of its request to change accreditors within a two-week window of the request.

Mr. Manny Diaz, Interim President of the University of West Florida (UWF), stated that the university recently received notification from the USDOE that it may begin accreditation proceedings with HLC. Interim President Diaz added that UWF's accreditation with SACS was reaffirmed and that the university's application to HLC has been accepted.

Dr. Alexander Cartwright, President of the University of Central Florida, stated that the university submitted its accreditation application to the USDOE in the summer of 2022, and it was approved to proceed with changing accreditors in January 2024, after which it submitted its application to HLC. President Cartwright announced that as of January 2026, USDOE has recognized HLC as the official accrediting agency for the university.

4. Nursing Education in the State University System

Vice Chair Jones recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to present an update on nursing education in the System.

Ms. Sikes reported that student capacity in the System's nursing programs has increased by over 1,200 slots between 2014-2015 and 2024-2025, with 214 new slots added in the last year. She recognized Florida State University and the University of West Florida for having the most slots added. Ms. Sikes stated that the System continues to surpass its previous records in the total number of graduates, with close to 1,000 more graduates during the last ten-year period. She recognized the University of South Florida and Florida State University as having the highest year-over-year increases in the number of new graduates.

Ms. Sikes explained that through the LINE and PIPELINE programs, more scholarships to nursing students have been provided, capacity in nursing programs has increased, and recurring funding for nursing programs has been increased. She added that PIPELINE funding has been utilized for faculty recruitment and retention, student success and scholarship, licensure exam preparation, and simulation equipment. Ms. Sikes stated that across the System, these two programs have directly resulted in increased capacity, record numbers of nursing graduates, and high-quality graduates. She reported that the System nursing licensure exam pass rate is 94%, which is above the national average, and she recognized Florida Gulf Coast University for its 100% pass rate last year.

5. Florida Atlantic University LINE Funding Request

Vice Chair Jones recognized Ms. Sikes to present an overview of Florida Atlantic University's amended LINE funding request.

Ms. Sikes stated that following the Board's approval of the LINE funding request for Florida Atlantic University in September 2025, the university has requested to change its medical partner and direct the \$100,000 of its funding toward student scholarships.

Vice Chair Jones requested a motion to approve Florida Atlantic University's LINE funding request. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Dale seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

6. SUS 30 Updates

Vice Chair Jones recognized Ms. Sikes to present an update on the implementation of the SUS 30 Strategic Plan.

Ms. Sikes stated that it has been over a year since the SUS 30 Strategic Plan was approved. The Board approved a new PBF model in November to align with the SUS 30 plan. The Board also approved the list of Iconic Companies and Areas of Expertise in November as part of the SUS 30 implementation. Other key deliverables for the last year of implementation have included the October 2025 Safety Summit, creation of operational excellence metrics, and review of 2+2 Targeted Pathways.

Ms. Sikes explained that the June 2026 Accountability Plan will include the new SUS 30 metrics. She provided an outline and timeline of priorities for 2026, noting that the Board is statutorily required to provide an update on Programs of Strategic Emphasis, which will begin in spring 2026.

Board Chair Levine mentioned that the Board will run the current PBF model for funding this year, while also running the new model to see how it works and whether any adjustments are needed. Vice Chair Jones noted that, despite no tuition increases for resident students, there were increases for nonresident students, and the metric for students graduating without student loans includes only resident students. He stated that going forward, the Board may want to consider including nonresident students.

8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Vice Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Ken Jones, Vice Chair

Catherine Oakley, Director of Academic & Student Affairs