

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
University of West Florida
March 26, 2026
Full Board

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<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/3-26-26-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/>

1. Call to Order

Chair Levine called the full board meeting to order. Governors Levine, Cerio, Broxson, Dale, Dunn, Good, Haddock, Jones, Kamoutsas, Lukis, Lydecker, Mateer, Okaty, Perry, and Sinatra were in attendance, and a quorum was met.

2. Chair's Remarks

Chair Levine presented the board with updates within the state universities. The University of Florida had a guest speaker visit and discuss advances in biomedical research. The University of West Florida announced the expansion of its cybersecurity center. Florida Polytechnic University is launching a collegiate athletics program set to start in the fall term. FAU has risen to an 'A' grade based on the standards of the Anti-Defamation League.

Chair Levine announced that Chancellor Rodrigues was nominated to be a negotiator for state officials for the Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization Negotiated Rulemaking Committee.

Chair Levine discussed a letter to the Liaison Committee for Medical Education, as well as acknowledged Governor Jones' leadership on the Taskforce for Intercollegiate Athletics. Chair Levine also advised that he added President Manny Diaz to the Task Force in order to add a president's perspective to the task force.

3. Public Comment

Chair Levine moved to the next agenda item, public comment. There were no requests for public comments.

4. Commission for Public Higher Education Update

Chair Levine shifted to the next agenda item, an update on the Commission for Public Higher Education (CPHE) , which was to be presented by Dr. Jason Jewell.

Dr. Jewell advised that CPHE was making progress toward recognition by the U.S Department of Education by the fall of 2027 and is hoping to have a permanent CEO in place by July. Dr. Jewell then explained the resolution pertaining to CPHE that the board members were presented with. A motion to pass the resolution by Governor Jones was seconded by Governor Cerio. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Confirmation of Florida State University President's Contract Extension

Chair Levine continued to the next agenda item, extending the contract of Florida State University President Richard McCullough. Peter Collins presented the Board with the FSU Board of Trustees' reasoning for extending his contract for three years. Chair Levine asked if there was a motion for the confirmation of the renewal of Dr. McCullough's contract. Governor Dale made the motion to confirm, and it was seconded by Governor Lydecker. Governor Cerio provided commentary on the motion, recognizing Dr. McCullough's accolades throughout his tenure. Governors Jones and Broxson agreed with Governor Cerio. After these comments, the motion was passed.

6. Presidential Search Updates

Chair Levine continued to the next agenda item, presidential search updates for the University of North Florida. Chair Levine provided the update.

Governor Haddock then provided an update on the University of Florida presidential search.

7. Update on Institute for Human and Machine Cognition

Chair Levine proceeded to the next agenda item, updates within the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC). Chair Levine introduced Jay Patel, who introduced their President, Dr. Morely Stone, to provide a summary presentation. Dr. Stone provided an overview of IHMC's mission, history, research areas, and current projects in robotics, exoskeletons, health span research, and AI. He also discussed IHMC's joint PhD program with the University of West Florida and recent facility expansions.

8. Consent Agenda

Chair Levine then moved to the consent agenda and asked if there was a motion to approve what was included on the agenda. Governor Jones moved to approve the consent agenda, and Governor Good seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Levine noted that the Board's agenda was completed and adjourned the full board meeting.