

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA
March 26, 2026

Video or audio archives of the meetings of the Board of Governors and its committees are accessible at:

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

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks.

Mr. Tim Cerio, Chair, convened the Budget and Finance Committee meeting at 10:54 a.m. on March 26, 2026. Members present for the roll call were Chair Cerio, Ken Jones, Douglas Broxson, Carson Dale, Kimberly Dunn, Aubrey Edge, Alan Levine, Craig Mateer, Michael Okaty, and Nick Sinatra.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Mr. Cerio introduced the first item of business, to approve the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on January 29, 2025. Governor Cerio called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on November 6, 2025.¹

Mr. Ken Jones moved that the Committee approve the November 6, 2025, meeting minutes. Mr. Nick Sinatra seconded the motion, and members of the committee concurred.

3. Florida Gulf Coast University- Performance-Based Funding, Funding Student Success Plan Monitoring Report

Mr. Cerio introduced the next item on the agenda, Florida Gulf Coast University's Performance-Based Funding Student Success Plan Monitoring Report. Last year, Florida Gulf Coast University's performance-based funding score was below 70 points. Their state investment portion of their Performance Funds were held in reserve by the Board. FGCU was required to submit a Student Success Plan last September. That plan was approved by the committee and the Board. The plan included 24 measurable goals. He asked President Timur to present to the committee how they are performing on those goals, as the release of the remaining performance funds is contingent upon their success. \$4,016,357 in reserve is pending their report today.

FGCU President Timur presented that they are seeing improvement across the board. The success plan has provided meaningful change. It provided accountability, transparency, and a clear roadmap for improvement. They are seeing notable gains in retention, persistence, and graduation. These improvements driven by collaboration, analytics and coordinated action by faculty, staff, and students have contributed to a sustained university-wide impact including a 10-point increase in total score from 2024. President Timur continued by presenting positive trendlines in 4-year graduation rates (metric 4), academic progress rates (metric 5, 3-year graduation rates for AA transfer students (metric 9a) and 5-year graduation rates for pell grant

¹ The agenda item called for approval of the January 29, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion was made for the November 6, 2025 meeting minutes in error. The January 29, 2026 meeting minutes will be presented to the committee for approval at the June 25, 2026 meeting.

recipients (metric 9b). President Timur then presented data showing increasing trendlines on the percent of bachelor's graduates enrolled or employed (metric 1) and the median wages of bachelor's graduates employed full-time (metric 2).

President Timur explained the positive trendlines were accomplished by strengthening partnerships with the Florida College System, expanded the use of AI-powered behavior analytics and intervention strategies to create university-wide care models for student support. They also scaled up successful strategies for coordinating high-impact courses and strengthened institutional capacity for predictive analytics to provide actionable insights for student success. They also invested in new technology systems to strengthen degree planning, transfer evaluation and course scheduling. FGCU developed their first strategic enrollment plan to recruit, retain and graduate students.

FGCU has developed a real-time scorecard that is available to all faculty, staff, and trustees. This brings transparency and accountability to the entire team. Every single indicator is monitored. Their focus has been strategic and unwavering. They will continue to build on this momentum advancing student success with measurable sustained impact guided by data

Mr. Cerio thanked President Timur on her presentation and congratulated them for meeting their goals. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve Florida Gulf Coast University's student Success Plan monitoring report and authorize the release of \$4,016,357 in state investment performance funds.

Mr. Jones motioned, and Dr. Dunn seconded the motion. Members of the committee concurred. The motion passed.

4. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 9.015, University Bonus Plans

Mr. Cerio introduced the next item on the agenda, stating that they have three regulation amendments to review. First, the proposal to amend Regulation 9.015, University Bonus Plans. He asked Sarah deNagy, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration to provide a high-level review of the proposed amendment.

Ms. deNagy presented that the proposed amendment to Regulation 9.015 modifies subsection 4 to allow university presidents to designate an official to provide the required certification for the bonus plans. This would provide universities with additional flexibility in completing the reporting process while ensuring that all bonuses are paid in accordance with the approved bonus plan and budget, as required by the regulation.

Mr. Cerio asked if there were any questions regarding the proposed amendment. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve the public notice of intent to amend Regulation 9.015, University Bonus Plans.

Mr. Jones motioned, and Mr. Carson Dale seconded the motion. Members of the committee concurred. The motion passed.

5. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 18.002, Notice and Protest Procedures for Protest Related to a University's Contract Procurement Process

Mr. Cerio introduced the next item on the agenda, Regulation 18.002, Notice and Protest Procedures for Protests Related to a University's Contract Procurement Process. He asked Ms. deNagy to present the amendment.

Ms. deNagy stated that the proposed amendment to regulation 18.002 was brought to the Board by university staff. The amendment proposes that the definition of decisions or intended decisions be changed to exclude the words sponsored research exemption. This is the only exemption from the competitive solicitation that must be formally and publicly posted. This requirement unnecessarily delays the purchase of goods or services and hinders the prompt progress of research projects through the procurement process. Additionally, the requirement provides no material benefit, as all procurements are still reviewed internally for allowability regarding grant funds.

Mr. Cerio asked if there were any questions regarding the amendment. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation 18.002, Notice and Protest Procedures for Protests Related to a University's Contract Procurement Process.

Mr. Jones motioned, and Mr. Levine seconded the motion. Members of the committee concurred. The motion passed.

6. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 9.013, Auxiliary Operations

Mr. Cerio introduced the next item on the agenda, Regulation 9.013, Auxiliary Operations. He asked Ms. deNagy to present the amendment.

Ms. deNagy presented that the proposed amendment to Regulation 9.013 requires prior approval by the University Boards of Trustees and by the Board of Governors for a university to sell, transfer, or monetize athletic assets owned by the university, the state, or a direct support organization. The amendment provides specific exemptions to the rule.

Mr. Cerio asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Jones commented that the Task Force on Intercollegiate Athletics had its first meeting last week and he would like to provide an update. The task force has several members who are athletic directors and presidents. The goal of the task force is to examine what does NIL (Name, Image and Likeness) mean for college sports today. The lines have been blurred between amateur and professional athletics, the impact is estimated to be somewhere between \$3 and \$5 billion for the state of Florida as this gets off the ground. When you look at it on a national scale, it's a \$30 to \$50 billion impact. This is incredible significant and states like Florida has to make sure that we have a sensible set of regulations in place so we can remain competitive. It is going to be a complex subject that will take time to figure out. Mr. Jones commented that there is still more work to be done on this regulation amendment and that he would like to postpone the adoption of the amendment.

Mr. Douglas Broxson stated that he agrees that there is still work to be done on the wording of the amendment.

Mr. Levine stated the intent of the regulation is to make sure we don't make any major material decisions about our athletic programs without the Trustees and the Board of Governors being

involved. He goes on to say that they will fine-tune the language to ensure it accomplishes that goal. He concludes by stating that confidentiality is very important in these cases. There is a clear interest among the Athletic Directors and University Chairs who participate in the Task Force on Intercollegiate Athletics in coming up with solutions for Florida, and some of those solutions can be innovative. In order to have those confidential conversations without showing our competitive hand, he thinks it's important for the legislature to come up with some kind of exemption under Sunshine Law. He commits to having that conversation with leadership, the Legislature, and the Governor's office.

Mr. Cerio asked if there were any more questions or comments. He and Chancellor Ray Rodrigues agreed that this item would be brought back for discussion at the June meeting, and he moved on to the next agenda item.

7. Auxiliary Facilities that have Bond Covenants Requiring Approval of Estimated 2026-2027 Operating Budgets

Mr. Cerio introduced the next item on the agenda, the consideration of the 2026-2027 operating budgets for specific auxiliary facilities. He told the committee members that details of the budgets are included in the meeting materials, he then asked Ms. deNagy to present the proposed budgets.

Ms. deNagy presented the estimated 2026-2027 operating budgets for auxiliary facilities that have bond covenants requiring Board approval. The universities that have outstanding bond issues that require approval are: FAU, FIU, FSU, UCF, UF, and USF. Ms. deNagy stated that a review of each budget indicates that there will be sufficient revenues to meet the estimated levels of operational expenditures and dept service payments for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Cerio asked if there were any questions. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve the 2026-2027 operating budgets for specific auxiliary facilities, as presented in the meeting materials.

Mr. Michael Okaty motioned, and Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Members of the committee concurred. The motion passed.

8. Market Tuition Rate Proposal- University of Florida

Mr. Cerio introduced the final agenda item, a Market Tuition Rate Proposal from the University of Florida. He then asked Ms. deNagy to explain the proposal.

Ms. deNagy presented the University of Florida's proposal. Explaining that pursuant to Regulation 8.002, a Market Tuition Rate is defined as a tuition rate that is competitively aligned with comparable programs offered by public or private institutions, located both in-state and out-of-state. They must be offered only at the graduate level. The program must provide a convincing rationale for seeking a market tuition rate, and the proposed budget must clearly indicate that the revenue generated will be sufficient to operate the program without E&G funding. The University of Florida has submitted a market tuition rate proposal for a Master of Business Administration degree program at its Jacksonville and Miami locations for the Board's consideration. These are current programs. The University Board of Trustees has approved to move the program from its Gainesville campus to its Jacksonville campus and increase the tuition. In addition to that request, the University of Florida is proposing to increase its tuition for the same program held at its South Florida campus in Miami. She shows and explains a comparison of the University of Florida's MBA

program rates with those of other states, and even with the proposed tuition increase, they remain a very competitive option. She concluded her presentation by stating that the Board staff have reviewed the proposal and determined that it complies with relevant regulatory requirements.

Mr. Cerio asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Edge commented that before the committee takes up this specific item, he would like to know if the Board of Governors would get a report out on the Jacksonville campus and the required collaboration between University of North Florida and the University of Florida.

Interim UF President Landry stated that he is unaware of a report out, but there have been numerous high-level, detailed conversations over the past year. Involving the University President and Board Chair, resulting in significant changes in the plans coming out of the University of Florida. Stating that this proposal has great support from the Legislature, the Governor, and the City of Jacksonville. They also wanted to be sure that they were sensitive to the resident university.

Mr. Edge replied that he appreciated the explanation but would like more information and to see that the Board is more involved in this before making a final decision.

Mr. Mateer agreed with Mr. Edge that he feels there are many changes being made and would like more details before making a decision.

Mr. Cerio stated that he would like to be transparent and stated that he has been asking for updates on this project. When the Board approved the campus two years ago, the university requested that no strings be attached to it. The Board agreed due to concerns raised by Governor Edge and requests. They incorporated into the motion that there would be a joint task force, regular reports going forward, and memorialization of agreements. He is unaware of whether a task force was formed or how often it met. He stated that every time he has asked for an update, he has been given a reason why they couldn't provide one. He pointed out that they have only been given one update in the past two years. He would like to hear from the University of North Florida.

Interim UNF President Falconetti responded that there have been very high-level discussions, she has not yet received a report from the task force. They are looking forward to the future and collaborating with UF. The next step she sees for them is to get a group together to continue advancing the collaboration and ensure the non-replication of future offerings.

Mr. Cerio asked whether they knew when the task force last met and who was on it. Or was it a high-level discussion with university officials?

Dr. Falconetti responded that she did not have that information.

Mr. Jones asked if the former president of UNF, could give information on the matter.

USF President Limayem, former UNF President, replied that the University of North Florida's side of the task force was headed by Vice President Paul Easton. He stated meetings were had and more can be done in the future.

Mr. Cerio asked if there were any further questions.

Dr. Dunn commented, saying that her interest is in the adjustment of the Market Rate Tuition. She is more interested in having a broader system-wide discussion.

Mr. Cerio agrees, saying they have to because they have been saying no to the university's attempts to raise Market Rate Tuition for more than a decade now. Since this is the first one, he wouldn't be surprised if the others plan to bring some forward. It will give the Board and staff a chance to determine the methodology for Market Rate Tuition for the other universities after they have approved the University of Florida's. They can do that, and he thinks it's worth considering.

Mr. Levine commented that he thinks there are two issues. That there should be a more formalized process for meetings going forward with the UF Jacksonville campus, with better communication to the Board of Governors and the Chancellor. The other issue is UF's Market Tuition Rate proposal.

Mr. Rahul Patel, Vice Chair of the University of Florida Board of Trustees, commented that there have been many discussions, whether formal or not, and he understands that there are no more discussions needed to gain the University of North Florida's support, unless he is mistaken.

Mr. Steve Moore, Chair of the UNF Board of Trustees, replied, stating that there have been many conversations had and they agree with the project.

Chancellor Rodrigues stated that he believes the lack of communication may be due to changes within leadership at both universities. He thinks that he and the Board of Governors staff need to ensure they request updates from both universities and deliver them to the Board. He thinks they should set a schedule going forward so there are quarterly updates from both universities, so the Board will know what is happening.

Mr. Jones asked when the program is moved, will it require additional space, people, or leasing of buildings? If so, do they know where it will be?

Dr. Landry replied that yes, they will be hiring additional faculty and creating space. They already have the funds needed for the required space.

Mr. Cerio asked for clarification on whether they are already offering these MBA programs. They are just located in Gainesville.

Dr. Landry replied that, yes, they are, but it is very difficult because the city of Gainesville has a lot smaller population than Jacksonville. Moving the program to Jacksonville is for the success of the State of Florida.

Mr. Cerio asked, does moving make them a more serious competitor?

Dr. Landry commented, saying yes, because right now they only have 36 people enrolled in the program.

Mr. Patel commented that they have spent years selecting the space and location and is very confident that the space decision has been carefully considered. He feels that it will definitely make them more competitive. Seeing that most who enroll in this program are working professionals, it will be easier to attract them to Jacksonville on the weekends.

Mr. Lydecker commented that he agrees with both Vice Chair Patel and Interim President Landry on the importance of this move. It has been years since the program started, and it now has only 36 people. He feels it will help grow the program.

Mr. Levine stated that he sees two issues: first, that Vanderbilt is coming to Florida; and second, that direct air travel to Jacksonville will make them competitive nationally. His thoughts are that the committee permit them to go forward with Market Rate Tuition as requested for out-of-state students only at this time. This will give the Board of Governors a chance to collaborate with the other universities on issues they have related to in-state tuition, allowing the Board to make a thoughtful decision on the matter since it affects the entire system.

Mr. Kamoutsas stated that he agrees with Mr. Levine and Mr. Lydecker on the agenda item before them today. That they should address out-of-state tuition first, then discuss in-state tuition at a later time. He stated, for the record, that he is fine with both today.

Dr. Dunn commented that market rate programs are fundamentally different from those that receive state funding, and the desire to keep In-state tuition low for the E&G programs is in part because they are funded by taxpayers' dollars. All expenses related to the market rate programs must be covered by tuition dollars. So, for her, the difference between in-state and out-of-state programs doesn't make sense because those programs do not get taxpayer funding.

Mr. Jones stated he had a two-part question: how did they get to the \$59,808 from where it is today?

Mr. Cerio stated that it was a 20% increase across the board.

Mr. Jones stated the second part of his question: Is it high enough?

Dr. Landry replied that it is a matter of competition. They want to position themselves in an affordable range to offer an affordable choice to Florida's citizens. They are subsidizing the program and do not intend to take away what they are giving it, in terms of philanthropy and the funds they direct to it each year. This is his plan to elevate the College of Business to a top 5 program. This is all part of a broader plan to elevate them and make them more competitive.

Mr. Cerio asked him to clarify about his statement that they are subsidizing the program because it is supposed to be totally self-sufficient.

Dr. Landry replied that it is self-sufficient within the university's confines, but they are talking about a college. When you look at a college's budget, we put money into the college, and that makes everything run.

Mr. Duarte, Chair of the FIU Board of Trustees, asked about the University of Florida's campus in Miramar, Broward County. Is the idea to move to downtown Miami? He feels that the increase in tuition rates will dramatically affect accessibility and economic ability.

Mr. Okaty stated that he is in support of this not only for out-of-state but also for in-state.

Mr. Perry asked if, procedurally, there was a way to move this issue from this committee to the full Board?

Mr. Cerio stated that the committee will vote, and if it passes, then it will go to the full Board.

Mr. Perry stated that he would encourage the committee to approve the request from the University of Florida.

FAU President Hasner asked the Board to consider market rate tuition increases for all universities that have programs.

Mr. Cerio said the committee could consider that moving forward with a thoughtful approach.

Dr. Dunn commented, in-state students are not forced into market rate programs; from that perspective, she believes that any tuition increase from market rate or self-sustaining programs should apply to both in-state and out-of-state students. She then asked if the Chair would entertain a motion to approve this proposal, with the idea that they would allow Board staff to work with them to develop a process so that other universities can come to the Board for approval of market tuition rate increases.

Mr. Jones commented that if they are to do that, he doesn't agree with the entire motion of involving in-state tuition; he would take that out. Are they going to do this 11 more times because of the other universities?

Dr. Landry stated that as far as the funding is concerned, if they have to wait, they will be losing money on each student that they admit without the increase.

Mr. Cerio asked whether the program will be ready for students at the Jacksonville location for the fall of 2026.

Dr. Landry responded that they began closing Gainesville a year ago, advertising and taking applications from students for the Jacksonville location.

Mr. Levine stated that should never have started until the Board approved it. Then directs the Chair that a motion was made, and he did not hear a second.

Mr. Cerio replied that a motion had been made and asked for a second. Mr. Okaty seconded the motion.

Mr. Levine commented that he strongly opposes this motion but would entertain a new motion if one is offered.

Mr. Douglas Broxson commented that he would like to see a new motion or vote against this motion. He doesn't think they are in a position to make that kind of policy change until the Full Board has a full discussion of the issue.

Mr. Cerio asked if there were any further questions before they took a vote.

Mr. Edge requested a roll-call vote.

Ms. Amanda Gay began a roll-call vote: Chair Cerio, No, Ken Jones, No, Douglas Broxson, No, Carson Dale, No, Kimberly Dunn, Yes, Aubrey Edge, No, Alan Levine, No, Craig Mateer, No, Michael Okaty, Yes, and Nick Sinatra, No. The motion failed.

Mr. Cerio asked if there was another motion.

Mr. Jones motioned that he would like to approve the University of Florida's Market Rate Tuition increase request for out-of-state tuition for the Master of Business Administration program at the Jacksonville and Miami campuses, and commence a review of all other universities in the system to come up with the framework to increase out-of-state tuition while keeping the existing market rate for in-state tuition to avoid a carte blanche.

Mr. Jones motioned, and Dr. Dunn seconded the motion.

Mr. Cerio asked whether there were any further questions or discussion and requested a roll-call vote.

Ms. Gay called a roll-call vote: Chair Cerio, No, Ken Jones, Yes, Douglas Broxson, Yes, Carson Dale, No, Kimberly Dunn, Yes, Aubrey Edge, No, Alan Levine, Yes, Craig Mateer, No, Michael Okaty, Yes, and Nick Sinatra, Yes. The motion passed.

Mr. Cerio offered clarification that the motion included approval for the University of Florida to move the MBA program to the Jacksonville campus.

9. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Mr. Cerio asked the Committee if there was any further business; seeing none, he adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

Tim Cerio, Chair

Heather Chason, Prepared Minutes