

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
March 26, 2026

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

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Lydecker convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m., with the following Governors present: Dale, Dunn, Good, Haddock, Jones, Mateer, and Sinatra. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Chair Lydecker requested a motion to approve the Strategic Planning Committee meeting minutes from January 28, 2026. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Dale seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

3. Accreditation Update

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

Dr. Aysegul Timur, President of Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), stated that on December 9, 2025, the university received reaffirmation of its institutional accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges. President Timur added that on January 13, 2026, FGCU's Board of Trustees approved transitioning institutional accreditation to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and subsequently sent notice to the United States Department of Education (USDOE) of their intent. On February 4, 2026, FGCU was notified by the USDOE that the university had established reasonable cause to pursue a change in accreditors, and HLC acknowledged the university's intent to transition. President Timur noted that FGCU is on time with the process.

Dr. Moez Limayem, President of the University of South Florida (USF), stated that the university recently received approval from its board of trustees to change accreditors and confirmation from the USDOE. President Limayem noted that USF presently has a team working on the next steps.

4. Financial Aid Update

Chair Lydecker recognized Mr. Troy Miller, Chief Data Officer, to provide an update on financial aid across the System.

Mr. Miller stated that Florida continues to be about 45% below the national tuition average and remains the lowest in the country. He reported that during the 2024-2025 Academic Year, over 102,000 students received merit-based aid through the Bright Futures scholarship, totaling \$551 million, and over 60,000 students received \$123 million in need-based aid through the Florida Student Assistance Grants. Mr. Miller noted that Florida continues to rank third in the nation in the number of students receiving state aid. In 2024-25, 80% of Florida resident undergraduate students did not take out a student loan.

Mr. Miller explained that changes to the federal Pell Grant increased the number of recipients across the System by over 11,000. As a result, Performance-Based Funding (PBF) metric 7, the percentage of students receiving a Pell Grant, has increased to 37.8%. He reported that the 6-year graduation rate for Pell recipients was the highest in the nation at 72%, well above the national average of 53%.

Mr. Miller reported that several federal changes in loan limits and repayment methods could impact students. He indicated that early analysis shows the System is well-positioned to respond to these changes, thanks to strong performance in post-graduate outcomes.

Chair Lydecker remarked that Florida's strong state aid support continues to allow students to access high-quality degrees with little to no student debt.

5. Programs of Strategic Emphasis Updates

Chair Lydecker recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to present an update on the Programs of Strategic Emphasis list.

Ms. Sikes stated the Programs of Strategic Emphasis list must be reviewed every three years pursuant to Florida Statutes. Ms. Sikes explained that the reviews ensure the programs align with Florida's workforce needs.

Ms. Sikes reported that the 2023 updates were developed collaboratively with key stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to align with shared priorities to address critical workforce shortages, preparing students for in-demand fields and strong wage outcomes. She noted that one of the biggest changes was specifying a more targeted list of programs, reducing the number by over 600 and resulting in a more strategic list that better matched the state's workforce needs. Ms. Sikes commented that the System's percentage of Programs of Strategic Emphasis degrees at both the bachelor's and graduate levels has risen over time.

Ms. Sikes explained that, for this update, Board staff will collaborate with the statewide stakeholder groups. She noted that Board staff will complete initial analyses and develop preliminary recommendations based on labor market information. Ms. Sikes stated that this will also include identifying workforce gaps that are not directly addressed in the data. She reported that during the summer, staff will collect feedback from the institutions on the proposed list. Ms. Sikes stated that the Board will review initial recommendations in September and finalize updates to the Programs of Strategic Emphasis list at the November meeting.

6. SUS 30 Updates

Chair Lydecker recognized Ms. Sikes to present updates on the implementation of the SUS 30 Strategic Plan.

Ms. Sikes stated that since the Board approved the SUS 30 Strategic Plan in January 2025, there has been substantial progress in its implementation. She reported that in November 2025, the Board approved updates to the Performance-Based Funding (PBF) model (PBF 2.0) and in January 2026, the new metric ten selections for PBF 2.0 were approved. Ms. Sikes added that these items will now be included in the materials presented alongside the accountability plans in June.

Ms. Sikes explained that in the upcoming accountability plans, the Board should expect to see new metrics focused on SUS 30 priorities. Ms. Sikes reported that the 2026 accountability plans will include the current PBF metrics while incorporating the updated SUS 30 metrics. Ms. Sikes reported that there will be a separate PBF 2.0 document with university performance. Ms. Sikes reported that the Board will consider adjustments to the PBF 2.0 model in September.

7. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Lydecker adjourned the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

Charles Lydecker, Chair

Diego Fermin, Director of Admissions & Special Projects