

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
June 24, 2026

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<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/6-25-26-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/>

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks.

Chair Anastasios Kamoutsas convened the meeting at 9:48 a.m. with the following Governors present: Broxson, Bell Barnett, Dunn, Edge, Good, Haddock, Lukis, Okaty, Perry, and Seibert. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Chair Kamoutsas requested a motion to approve the committee meeting minutes for March 26, 2026. Governor Dunn moved to approve, and Governor Haddock seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

3. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulations

a. 1.001 University Board of Trustees Powers and Duties

Chair Kamoutsas requested to remove this from the agenda.

b. 6.001 General Admissions

Chair Kamoutsas recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to provide an overview of the proposed changes to Board of Governors' Regulation 6.001.

Ms. Sikes noted that the proposed amendment to Board of Governors' Regulation 6.001, General Admissions, would prioritize the enrollment of Florida residents and require universities to verify lawful presence before students' initial enrollment, beginning in the 2027-2028 Academic Year. She clarified that the requirement would apply only to new students enrolling in the 2027-2028 Academic Year and would not affect currently enrolled students.

Governor Bell Barnett asked for clarification on the meaning of "lawfully present."

General Counsel Amanda Gay stated that lawful presence is determined by the federal government and noted that Board staff would assist universities with related guidance.

Governor Dunn asked if the requirement would apply to students enrolled entirely in online courses. Ms. Sikes confirmed that the regulation applies to all students.

Governor Good asked whether the proposed regulation would prevent a student who lives outside the United States from enrolling in online courses at a university.

Board Chair Levine stated that the Board's intent would not be to prevent students living outside the United States from accessing online programs, and that the regulation should include an exception for those students.

Chair Kamoutsas noted that the language should be refined before the final vote on the regulation.

Governors Haddock and Okaty suggested revising the language to focus on individuals who are present in the United States unlawfully, which would address questions related to fully online students living abroad. The proposed amendment would replace the phrase "not lawfully present in the United States" with "present in the United States unlawfully."

Chair Kamoutsas requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.001, General Admissions, with the proposed floor amendment. Governor Edge moved to approve, and Governor Lukis seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

c. 3.005 Examination and Assessment Instruments

Chair Kamoutsas recognized Dr. Lynn Nelson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Innovation, to provide an overview of the proposed changes to Board of Governors' Regulation 3.005.

Dr. Nelson explained that recent legislation requires the Board to adopt schedules for maintaining examination and assessment instruments and disposing of student scoring records. She stated that Board staff propose aligning the schedules with those recommended by the Florida Department of State, which also align with those used by the Florida Department of Education.

Chair Kamoutsas requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors' Regulation 3.005, Examinations and Assessment Instruments. Governor Good moved to approve, and Governor Lukis seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

d. 8.013 Specialized Admissions

Chair Kamoutsas recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an overview of the proposed changes to Board of Governors' Regulation 8.013.

Dr. Nelson explained that Board of Governors' Regulation 8.013, Specialized Admissions, establishes additional criteria for admission to baccalaureate programs. She stated that one criterion for specialized admissions status is minimal skills. This may apply to programs such as music performance programs, which require students to audition to demonstrate the skills necessary for success in the program. She noted that programs currently approved for specialized admissions status based on minimal skills must reaffirm that status every five years. Dr. Nelson stated that Board staff propose amending the regulation to allow programs approved under the minimal skills criterion to maintain specialized admissions status without reaffirmation unless the admission requirements change.

Chair Kamoutsas requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.013, Specialized Admissions. Governor Dunn moved to approve, and Governor Haddock seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

e. 8.014 Bachelors' Degree Exceptions to 120 Credit Hours Requirement

Chair Kamoutsas requested to remove this item from the agenda.

4. Academic Items

a. Specialized Admissions Request, University of South Florida

Chair Kamoutsas recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an overview of the specialized admissions request from the University of South Florida.

Dr. Nelson stated that the University of South Florida submitted a request for specialized admissions status for the Bachelor of Design in Architecture program. She explained that the request is based on limited resources, including space constraints and faculty capacity for architectural design and studio-based learning. She noted that specialized admissions status would allow the University of South Florida to better align enrollment with available resources.

Chair Kamoutsas requested a motion to approve the University of South Florida's request for specialized admissions status for the Bachelor of Design in Architecture degree program. Vice Chair Broxson moved to approve, and Governor Perry seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

b. CIP Change Request, University of South Florida

Chair Kamoutsas recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an overview of the CIP change request from the University of South Florida.

Dr. Nelson summarized the University of South Florida's request to change the CIP code for the Ph.D. in Economics to the CIP code for Econometrics and Quantitative Economics, citing the program's evolution since it was initially approved by the Board in 2010. She noted that the curriculum has retained its foundational focus on economics while evolving to place greater emphasis on applied econometrics, optimization, and economic modeling.

Dr. Nelson stated that the request is an administrative reclassification only and would have no impact on the program's budget, faculty resources, or approved graduate tuition.

Chair Kamoutsas requested a motion to approve the University of South Florida's request to change the CIP code for the Ph.D. in Economics from CIP 45.0601 to CIP 45.0603, Econometrics and Quantitative Economics, at the currently approved graduate tuition rate for resident and nonresident students, effective fall 2026. Governor Dunn moved to approve, and Vice Chair Broxson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

c. Education Location Closure: Florida International University

Governor Kamoutsas recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an overview of Florida International University's request to close an educational location.

Dr. Nelson stated that Florida International University (FIU) submitted a request to close the Jewish Museum of Florida as an FIU educational site. She explained that the museum was gifted to FIU in 2012 and was approved by the Board as a special purpose center. She noted that FIU and the Jewish Museum of Florida have determined that it is in the museum's best interest to operate as a separate, independent entity, and that FIU proposes transferring the facilities and land back to the museum's foundation. Dr. Nelson clarified that the museum is not closing and that the request is only to close the site as an educational location. She stated that FIU will maintain an affiliation with the museum through multiple academic programs, which may include joint programming and museum exhibits on FIU campuses.

Chair Kamoutsas requested a motion to approve Florida International University's request to close the special purpose center as an educational location. Governor Haddock approved the motion, and Governor Good seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

5. Articulation Coordinating Committee Items

a. Military Training Equivalencies

Chair Kamoutsas recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an overview of the annual Military Training Equivalencies List.

Dr. Nelson stated that this is the fifth year of review for the Military Training and Education Courses Equivalency List, which supports seamless articulation and reduces unnecessary additional course requirements for veteran and armed forces students. She reported that in May 2026, the discipline committees finalized their review of the American Council on Education recommendations. Dr. Nelson stated that the proposed additions include 85 courses and occupation titles, which were approved at the June Articulation Coordinating Committee meeting. She noted that if approved by both the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, the equivalencies will be administered identically across the State University System and the Florida College System and will take effect upon approval.

Governor Kamoutsas requested a motion to approve the Credit or Clock Hour for the Military Experience Equivalency List. Governor Dunn approved the motion, and Governor Perry seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

b. Credit-by-Exam Equivalencies

Chair Kamoutsas recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an overview of the proposed additions to the Credit-by-Exam Equivalencies List.

Dr. Nelson reported that at its June 2026 meeting, the Articulation Coordinating Committee approved additional credit-by-exam equivalencies for two Advanced International Certificate of Education U.S. History exams: U.S. History to 1877 and U.S. History Since 1877. She explained that students who earn the required passing score and receive course credit will meet the civic literacy course requirement but will still need to meet the civic literacy assessment requirement. She noted that, if approved by both the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, the equivalencies will be administered identically across the State University System and the Florida College System and will take effect upon approval.

Chair Kamoutsas requested a motion to approve the Articulation Coordinating Committee's recommendation for the Credit-by-Exam Equivalencies. Governor Haddock approved the motion, and Governor Seibert seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

6. FAU High School and Accelerated Pathways

Chair Kamoutsas recognized Dr. Joel Herbst, Vice President for PK-12 and Pre-Baccalaureate Programs at Florida Atlantic University, to provide an overview of Florida Atlantic Laboratory Schools.

Dr. Herbst highlighted the integration between Florida Atlantic University and its laboratory schools, noting that university faculty and deans help provide enriched educational experiences that have led to national recognition. He reported that the number of students earning bachelor's degrees before high school graduation increased from six students two years ago to 12 students this year, with 24 students projected next year. He also noted that recently promoted eighth-grade students collectively earned 179 dual enrollment credits in advanced mathematics courses. Dr. Herbst shared that Acting United States Secretary of Labor Keith Sonderling recently described the program as a national model for excellence.

Dr. Tricia Meredith, Director of Research for Florida Atlantic Laboratory Schools, provided an overview of the school's research initiatives, explaining that research is embedded in both educator practice and student learning. Dr. Meredith highlighted student outcomes, including 141 peer-reviewed publications co-authored by high school students, thousands of research presentations, grant funding, and six Goldwater Scholars.

Ms. Lenny Hanisko, a current 11th-grade student, and Ms. Shyla Grant, a recent graduate of Florida Atlantic University and Florida Atlantic University High School, described their research experiences. They both credited the school's research program with providing faculty mentorship, access to advanced research opportunities, and support in pursuing research beyond the high school level.

Chair Kamoutsas noted the transformational impact of hearing directly from the students and encouraged the committee to continue prioritizing student voices in future policy discussions.

7. Academic and Student Affairs Updates

a. Florida Student Association (FSA)

Governor Seibert reported that the Florida Student Association recently completed its leadership transition following elections at the end of May. He expressed appreciation to Board staff for their onboarding support and recognized outgoing Chair Carson Dale for his advocacy on behalf of students. Governor Seibert stated that the association has begun work on priorities for the year, including strengthening its brand, connecting Systemwide student leaders, and building administrative support for long-term success.

Governor Seibert reported that the association updated its website, established a monthly newsletter, approved hiring an executive director, and created five Systemwide committees focused on student issues, legislative advocacy, and athletics. He also highlighted summer initiatives from several student body presidents, including career readiness, leadership development, student wellness, mental health resources, and athletic engagement. Governor Seibert reaffirmed the association's commitment to serving as a unified voice for students across the System.

b. Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS)

Governor Dunn reported that the council has launched several Systemwide initiatives, including partnerships with System provosts and working groups focused on highlighting faculty excellence and supporting the implementation and oversight of general education curricula.

Governor Dunn highlighted examples of faculty members serving in institutional leadership roles across the System, including strategic planning, regulatory review, artificial intelligence initiatives, and K-12 laboratory school governance. She stated that these examples demonstrate the value of early faculty involvement in policy development and institutional decision-making.

Board Chair Levine noted that he met with members of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates' leadership team, where faculty expressed interest in working with the Board on System priorities. He encouraged continued engagement between the Board and faculty leadership.

8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Kamoutsas adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Anastasios Kamoutsas, Chair

Isabella LoBianco, Policy Analyst, Academic and Student Affairs