

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
June 25, 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 Lydecker convened the meeting at 10:51 a.m., with the following Governors present: Dunn, Haddock, Mateer, Seibert, 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 March 26, 2026. Governor Mateer moved to approve, Governor Sinatra 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, stated that the university submitted its initial application to the Higher Learning Commission on June 8, 2026 and added that the university is on track for its planned accreditation timeline.

Dr. Angela Falconetti, Interim President of the University of North Florida, stated that the university will meet with representatives of the Higher Learning Commission in July and then await final news regarding accreditation at the Higher Learning Commission's annual meeting in November.

4. Florida Atlantic University 2026-2031 Strategic Plan

Chair Lydecker recognized President Adam Hasner of Florida Atlantic University to provide an overview of the university's strategic plan.

President Hasner described how the university's roadmap for the next five years was designed to align with the priorities of the System. Initiatives outlined in the strategic plan aim to deliver a return on investment for every student by fostering sought-after critical thinking skills and addressing workforce needs, to form a healthier, safer, and more prosperous community, and to elevate the prestige of the university by maximizing its unique assets to support its ascension as an R1 research institution and top public university.

President Hasner discussed research areas of emphasis for the university, such as neuroscience, environmental innovation, national defense, and quantum computing. He noted that research in these fields would provide opportunities to collaborate with other institutions in the System. He emphasized the importance of embracing Florida Atlantic University's position as the region's hometown university and establishing a strong connection with the local community.

Board Chair Levine asked President Hasner how Florida Atlantic University can grow sustainably while occupying a high-cost area of the state and receiving less funding per student than many other institutions in the System. President Hasner discussed how the university could work with the Board to identify areas for improvement regarding operational efficiency.

Governor Sinatra commended Florida Atlantic University for leaning into the uniqueness of its location and encouraged the university to collaboratively develop solutions to affordability and housing challenges in its region.

Chair Lydecker requested a motion to approve the Florida Atlantic University 2026-2031 Strategic Plan. Governor Sinatra moved to approve, Governor Mateer seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

5. 2026 University Accountability Plans

Chair Lydecker recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to present on the 2026 university accountability plans.

Ms. Sikes provided highlights from this year's System-wide data on the Performance Based Funding metrics. She reported the four-year graduation rate for first-time-in-college students was 66%, an increase of three percentage points from the previous year and four percentage points from the System's 2030 goal of 70%. Ms. Sikes also reported that the three-year graduation rate for transfer students from Florida College System institutions with an associate of arts degree was 66%, an increase of three percentage points over the past five years. She noted the median salary for bachelor's graduates one year after graduation is \$52,600, an increase of \$10,000 over the past five years. The SUS 30 goal for System-wide access rate was met, with 38% of undergraduates receiving a Pell grant. Ms. Sikes reported that the academic progress rate was slightly over 90%, and Programs of Strategic Emphasis comprised 49% of all graduate degree programs offered. She noted that the 2026 accountability plans were the first to implement the updated list of Programs of Strategic Emphasis, adopted by the Board in 2023, and reported that institutions increased bachelor's degrees from the list, nearing the SUS 30 goal of 45%.

Ms. Sikes stated that the largest remaining opportunities for improvement are in employment and salaries for graduates, though these areas are still improving. Ms. Sikes also discussed how the gap in four-year graduation rates between first-time-in-college students and Pell recipients was closing. She noted that all 12 institutions improved in graduation rates for associate of arts transfer students from the Florida College System.

Ms. Sikes highlighted new metrics from the SUS 30 strategic plan that appeared in this year's accountability plans. She reported that 78% of students were without loans, with a goal of 85% by 2030, ranking the System third nationally in this metric. Ms. Sikes stated that the percentage of bachelor's degree graduates with internships was 28%, with a goal of 40% by 2030.

Governor Bell Barnett commented that the internship metric has room for improvement within the System. Ms. Sikes described how the Board's data team has been working with the universities to improve access and awareness for internship programs at the institutions.

Ms. Sikes next presented data on licensure pass rates. She noted that this year's accountability plans added the Physician Assistant licensure exam. Ms. Sikes reported that the majority of the licensure exam pass rates across the System met or exceeded national benchmark scores. She highlighted that seven programs in the System achieved 100% pass rates in 2025. Ms. Sikes noted that the System pass rate for the nursing licensure exam was 91%, exceeding the national benchmark of 88%. Nine institutions exceeded the national benchmark, and Florida Gulf Coast University led the System with a 99% pass rate.

Ms. Sikes provided an overview of financial metrics added to this year's accountability plan, highlighting the cash-to-debt ratio, return on net assets, shared initiatives savings, and annual giving. She stated that the System's performance on these metrics indicated strong financial health.

Ms. Sikes provided an update on the preeminent research university status in the System. She recognized the University of Central Florida for achieving preeminence this year. Mr. Alex Martins, Chair of the University of Central Florida's Board of Trustees, reflected on the challenges of achieving preeminence through the efficient use of limited resources. Board Chair Levine noted that although preeminence funding was not invested in by the state legislature this year, historical trends indicate that funding could return next year. Dr. Alexander Cartwright, President of the University of Central Florida, elaborated on the challenges the university faced as it worked toward preeminent status. He highlighted the university's low number of staff and administrative personnel per student, its rising graduation rate, its growing philanthropic funding, and its strength in nursing and engineering.

Chair Lydecker requested a motion to approve the 2026 University Accountability Plans, excluding sections of the plan that require any additional regulatory or procedural review of approval pursuant to law or board regulations. Governor Mateer moved to approve, Governor Dunn seconded, and the motion passed.

Chair Lydecker requested a motion to approve the 2026 Preeminent Research University Annual Updates for Florida International University, Florida State University, the University of Florida, and the University of South Florida. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Mateer seconded, and the motion passed.

Chair Lydecker requested a motion to approve the designation of the University of Central Florida as a Preeminent Research University. Governor Haddock moved to approve, Governor Dunn seconded, and the motion passed.

6. 2026 System Accountability Plan

Chair Lydecker requested a motion to approve the 2026 System Accountability Plan. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Mateer seconded, and the motion passed.

7. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors' Regulations

A. Regulation 2.002, University Accountability Plans

Chair Lydecker recognized Ms. Sikes to provide an overview of the proposed amendment to Board of Governors' Regulation 2.002, University Accountability Plans.

Ms. Sikes reported the proposed amendment would align the regulation with changes proposed during the 2026 special legislative session. She stated that the proposed amendment would require universities to provide annual projections of nonresident enrollment for degree-seeking students over the next four academic years.

Board Chair Levine expressed interest in further discussing changes to nonresident enrollment restrictions with the state legislature. Mr. Mori Hosseini, Chair of the University of Florida's Board of Trustees, added that restricting nonresident enrollment may negatively affect the prestige of institutions in the System.

Chair Lydecker requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors' Regulation 2.002, University Accountability Plans. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Sinatra seconded, and the motion passed.

Governor Sinatra made a motion to direct Board staff to further analyze changes to nonresident enrollment restrictions, Governor Dunn seconded, and the motion passed.

B. Regulation 8.008, Nursing Education

Chair Lydecker recognized Ms. Sikes to provide an overview of the proposed amendment to Board of Governors' Regulation 8.008, Nursing Education.

Ms. Sikes stated that the proposed amendment relates to a bill passed during the most recent legislative session and signed into law. The proposed amendment expands the partnership requirement and allowable contributions. She reported that the proposed amendment also allows for universities to request multi-year funding and clarifies allowable expenditures and reporting requirements.

Chair Lydecker requested a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors' Regulation 8.008, Nursing Education. Governor Dunn moved to approve, Governor Sinatra seconded, and the motion passed.

8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Lydecker adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Charles Lydecker, Chair

Vincent Scuteri, Senior Policy Analyst