MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
University of Florida
Full Board
September 30, 2026

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https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/9-30-26-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/

1. Call to Order

Chair Levine began the full board meeting. Amanda Gay called the roll. Governors Levine, Cerio, Bell Barnett, Broxson, Dunn, Edge, Good, Haddock, Jones, Lukis, Mateer, Mack, Okaty, Perry, Seibert, and Sinatra were in attendance, and a quorum was met.

2. Chair's Remarks

Chair Levine began his remarks by sharing highlights from the universities, specifically at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU), Florida Atlantic University (FAU), and Florida Polytechnic University (FL Poly). Chair Levine reminded everyone about the Trustee Summit coming up in November. He concluded his remarks by emphasizing that the State University System is a much better investment with a much higher return on investment for students. He emphasized that it is critical to recognize the investments our taxpayers have made in our public institutions.

3. Public Comment

Chair Levine next moved to public comment. Amanda Gay announced that there was one request for public comment and that the speaker would be allowed three minutes to address an item on the agenda.

The one comment was made by Demetris Laveris, who provided comments on the resolution for Anastasios Kamoutasas.

4. CPHE Update and Action

Chair Levine continued to the next business item, an update and action item on the Commission for Public Higher Education, presented by Dr. Jason Jewell.

Dr. Jewell highlighted the steady progress that CPHE has made toward its goal of submitting its petition for recognition to the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Jewell noted that CPHE expects to complete the accreditation process for all 10 institutions in the first cohort by July 1, 2027.

Dr. Jewell reminded everyone that at the March meeting, the Board authorized CPHE's board of directors to develop a plan to expand the organization's corporate membership from its original charter as a single-member nonprofit corporation. The plan that was developed in response stipulates that a founding university system be admitted to CPHE's corporate membership after committing $2.35 million in cash or in kind towards CPHE's startup costs. Dr. Jewell reported that the University of North Carolina System and the University System of Georgia met that requirement in June and were added at the June meeting at FAU. Since then, the University of South Carolina System and the Texas A&M University System have made similar financial commitments. CPHE's board of directors has unanimously approved the addition of these two systems as corporate members and is now requesting that the Board of Governors approve their addition as well.

Chair Levine asked for a motion to approve the addition of the University of South Carolina System and the Texas A&M System as corporate members of CPHE. Governor Cerio made the motion. Governor Mateer seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

5. Presentation of Resolutions

Chair Levine recognized Anastasios Kamoutsas and Debra Jenks for their service and contributions to the System. Chair Levine made a few remarks about each of them and highlighted their achievements. Mr. Kamoutsas offered a few words of gratitude to the Board and highlighted his motivation to continue representing the student body at Polk State College.

Chair Levine asked for a motion to approve the Resolution for Anastasios Kamoutsas. Governor Cerio made the motion. Commissioner Mack seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Chair Levine highlighted New College of Florida Board of Trustees Former Chair Jenk's leadership and service to New College and the System. He asked for a motion to approve the Resolution for Former Chair Debra Jenks. The motion was made by Governor Edge; Governor Perry seconded it, and the motion passed.

Members of the Board made remarks about Anastasios Kamoutsas and his service to the Board.

6. Consider Confirmation of UNF President-Elect

Chair Levine gave the floor to Governor Edge to make a few comments about the University of North Florida (UNF) presidential search process. After Governor Edge made his remarks and highlighted the great work of the presidential search committee, Chair Moore of the University of North Florida Board of Trustees discussed the process from the trustees' perspective and introduced Dr. Michael Shannon. The presidential search committee was chaired by Trustee Jack Boyle and consisted of 11 members. The committee worked with Funk Associates, a national executive search firm, throughout the process. The recruitment effort generated significant interest and resulted in 152 applicants. Following extensive evaluations and interviews, Dr. Shannon was announced as a finalist on August 25th.

Chair Moore gave a brief introduction of Dr. Shannon and highlighted his achievements and service throughout his career and lifetime. Dr. Shannon then provided a thorough introduction and discussed his background. Dr. Shannon shared his vision and critical areas he would like to focus on during his presidency.

Vice Chair Cerio began the discussion by asking Dr. Shannon if he had the opportunity to review the State University System's Statement of Free Expression. Dr. Shannon replied that he had read it and he subscribes to its tenets.

Commissioner Mack asked if Dr. Shannon could describe his philosophy of education. Dr. Shannon began by emphasizing the importance of the Constitution. He stated that he believes academic achievement is the cornerstone. He focuses on a specific question: "Across a 48-month experience, how do we create an environment for students to explore that and equip themselves for whatever they're going to face in whatever role?"

Governor Seibert asked how Dr. Shannon connects with the student body as the President. Dr. Shannon answered that it's not just about social engagement but also about intellectual engagement. He believes it's formational engagement around leadership.

Governor Sinatra thanked Dr. Shannon for his service. Governor Sinatra asked Dr. Shannon to make a long-term commitment to the University of North Florida and to the Board.

After no further questions, Governor Edge made the motion to consider the confirmation of UNF President-Elect, Dr. Michael Shannon. Governor Mateer seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

7. Consent Agenda

Chair Levine asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by Governor Cerio and seconded by Governor Seibert. The motion carried.

8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Levine adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.