MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
COMMITTEE
March 25, 2026

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https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/3-2-26-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Committee Chair Carson Good convened the meeting at 2:50 p.m. with the following Governors present: Dunn, Cerio, Dale, Edge, Jones, Lukis, Okaty, and Perry. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Chair Good requested a motion to approve the committee meeting minutes for March 2, 2026. Governor Jones moved to approve, Governor Dunn seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

3. SUS 30: Research Rankings

Chair Good recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to present an overview of the SUS 30 research metrics and rankings.

Ms. Sikes reported that the SUS 30 Strategic Plan encourages universities to pursue innovative research that addresses state challenges and strengthens the Florida economy. She stated that the System continues to make steady gains across key research metrics. She highlighted that the System has exceeded the $3 billion total research expenditure goal set in the strategic plan, leaving total expenditure $500 million shy of the 2030 goal.

Ms. Sikes reported that new goals have been added to the strategic plan, including research expenditures with business and industry and with the federal government. Ms. Sikes stated that the System continues to demonstrate national competitiveness, noting that five of the System's universities rank amongst the top 100 public universities for total research expenditures according to data from the National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development Survey, with other universities on the cusp of breaking into the top 100. She commented that these rankings highlight the System's research performance and show continuous improvement in impact and national visibility. Ms. Sikes reported that as the federal landscape and priorities continue to evolve, state universities have remained adaptable to the changes.

She noted that universities are continuing to find new opportunities to expand partnerships with businesses and the non-profit sector.

Chair Levine expressed his optimism, reiterating his previous confidence that the $3 billion research expenditure goal would be met. He commented that despite the shift in the federal landscape, the state universities continue to demonstrate research excellence.

4. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Good adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

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Carson Good, Chair

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Rajendra Indar, Student Intern, Academic and Student Affairs