

**MINUTES**  
**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**University of Florida**  
**May 8th, 2024**  
**Full Board Meeting**

Video or audio archives of the meetings of the Board of Governors and its committees are accessible at:

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/5-8-24-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/>

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Brian Lamb called to order the Full Board portion of the meeting. Amanda Gay called the roll and quorum was met. Chair Lamb and Governors Levine, Cerio, Diaz, Frost, Haddock, Hitchcock, Jones, Mateer, Oliva, and Phalin, were present. Chair Lamb introduced Chancellor, Ray Rodrigues.

**2. Chair's Remarks and Report to the Board**

Chair Lamb did not provide additional remarks during Full Board due to comments he already provided during the Strategic Planning Committee.

**3. Chancellor's Remarks and Report to the Board**

In his remarks, Chancellor Ray Rodrigues addressed a recent discovery regarding the General Appropriations Act passed by the U.S. congress for the federal budget. The provision requires all states to provide in-state tuition to students from the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau. This demonstrated a new/first instance in which the federal government infringed upon state sovereignty in determining who does and does not qualify for in-state tuition. Chancellor Rodrigues mentioned he had conferred with Chancellors from other states and concluded that they also were unaware of precedent for this provision. The Chancellor has since consulted with a top constitutional law firm to find grounds to challenge this provision that is set to take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

**4. Public Comment**

Amanda Gay reported that there were no public comments.

**5. Confirmation of Florida Polytechnic University President-Elect**

The Chair opened by recognizing customarily the Board confirms a new Florida university president. The Board of Trustees of Florida Polytechnic University, on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 selected Dr. G. Devin Stephenson to serve as the 2<sup>nd</sup> president of the university, which was approved by the board of trustees unanimously. Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees chair Cliff Otto sent a request for approval by the Board of Governors. Chair Lamb then gave the floor to Chair Otto.

The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees Chair Cliff Otto thanked Chair Lamb, the Governors, and Chancellor Rodrigues on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Chair Otto presented Presidential Elect Dr. G. Devin Stephenson for confirmation as the 2<sup>nd</sup> president of Florida Polytechnic University, by reviewing his qualifications and accomplishments which aligned with the institution's objectives. Chair Otto then formally requested confirmation from the Board of Governors of Dr. G. Devin Stephenson's appointment as President of Florida Polytechnic University to a 3-year contract ending on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2027. Chair Otto concluded by thanking Chair Lamb.

Chair Lamb opened the floor to Governor Jones, who served on the search committee, to which he recognized the prestige of the president's position and commended Dr. Stephenson's performance amongst the rest of the candidates. He then thanked Dr. Stephenson, Chair Otto, and Search Chair Kigel and gave the floor back to Chair Lamb.

Chair Lamb opened the floor to the Board of Governors. Governor Cerio introduced the topics of free expression and civil discourse and asked if Dr. Stephenson had reviewed the State University's Statement regarding free expression and, if so, if he could subscribe to it. Dr. Stephenson stated that he is a proponent of free speech but not lawlessness. He believes in providing an environment in which individuals can speak freely without infringing upon the academic processes or disrupting education at any institution in the state of Florida or the nation.

Governor Cerio thanked Dr. Stephenson, and Chair Lamb opened the floor once again for questions, to which Governor Levine made a motion to approve the confirmation of the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of Florida Polytechnic University. Governor Jones seconded the motion. It was moved by Governor Levine and properly seconded by Governor Jones, and no further discussion was held. The motion carried, and Dr. G. Devin Stephenson was confirmed as the 2<sup>nd</sup> president of Florida Polytechnic University.

Chair Lamb gave Dr. Stephenson the floor in which he thanked Chair Lamb, Chancellor Rodrigues, the Board of Governors, the presidential search committee, and the board of trustees, with special thanks to board chair Cliff Otto, vice chair, and search committee chair Beth Kigel. Additionally, he thanked Dr. Randy Avent, who led the establishment of the University over the past decade. He gave the floor back to Chair Lamb.

## **6. Consent Agenda**

Chair Lamb called for a motion. Governor Jones moved to approve the consent agenda, which was seconded by Governor Mateer with no further discussion. The motion was carried.

## **7. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**

Chair Lamb adjourned the meeting.