

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
University of Central Florida
June 28th, 2024
Full Board Meeting

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<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/6-28-24-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/>

1. Call to Order

Chair Brian Lamb called to order the Full Board portion of the meeting. Rachel Kamoutsas called the roll, and the quorum was met. Chair Lamb and Governors Levine, Barnett, Brinkman, Cerio, Edge, Frost, Good, Haddock, Jones, Mateer, Phalin, and Silagy were present.

2. Chair's Remarks and Report to the Board

The Chair gave the floor to the University of Central Florida Chair, Alex Martins. Martins welcomed the Board of Governors and thanked the UCF Board of Trustees for their attendance. He thanked Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Legislature for their historic support in funding of UCF and the entire State University System. He gave examples of the impact of this support on UCF. He then thanked Chair Lamb and Chancellor Ray Rodrigues for their steadfast support. He turned the floor over to the University President, Alexander N. Cartwright.

President Cartwright began by thanking the Board for the opportunity to host. He, too, thanked Chair Lamb and Chancellor Rodrigues for their support. President Cartwright remarked that UCF has brought together driven and talented people, to unleash their potential and benefit society. UCF has been able to graduate the most students in the State University System, with the skills to enrich their lives and contribute to Florida's workforce and economy for years to come. He introduced a student who has benefited from the transformative and meaningful experience offered at UCF, Nathan Kurelo Wilk, a masters fintech student, a software engineer at Meta, and a co-founder of Expand Financial, where he leads AI development. Mr. Wilk was given the floor to speak.

Mr. Wilk explained that before his role as a graduate student at UCF in the Masters in Fintech program, he completed his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. He spoke of his lifelong interest in the makeup of technology and how UCF allowed him to cultivate his interests through competitions and initiatives that ultimately allowed him to go into research. With the floor being reclaimed by President Cartwright, he concluded by thanking the board once more, and the floor was returned to Chair Lamb.

Chair Lamb recalled visiting UCF and praised the dynamic of the UCF Board of Trustees and the effectiveness of their work. He welcomed Governor Good and Governor Brinkman. Chair Lamb noted that the day before, the Board recognized the State University System's rise to

the No. 1 spot for the eighth year and thanked everyone for making this happen. He recounted the discussions and items taken up on the day before, praising the civil discourse that took place. Chair Lamb concluded by handing the floor to Chancellor Rodrigues.

3. Chancellor's Remarks and Report to the Board

In his remarks, Chancellor Ray Rodrigues congratulated the State University System and thanked all for their continued devotion. Chancellor recognized those involved in the strategic planning steering committee and complimented their hard work.

Chancellor Rodrigues discussed the record amount of funding for higher education which was higher than the legislative budget request. The Chancellor noted the last legislative session was extremely successful and thanked the legislature and Governor for their support. This year's budget further strengthens Florida's status as the number 1 system in higher education. Chancellor identified the funding for performance-based funding, performance-based excellence recognition, preeminence, operational enhancement funds, fixed capital outlay projects, identified support for the Board office. He also highlighted the carryforward spending bill that was passed this session, which allows the universities flexibility needed in carryforward spending plans and unrestricted reserves. He then thanked the Board of Governors and the members of the Board of Trustees for all the work being done, particularly on a volunteer basis. He also thanked the university presidents for their work in accomplishing university specific goals.

Finally, Chancellor Rodrigues took a moment to recognize Dr. Jon Rogers, who has served the board office for 16 years, has served the state of Florida for over 30 years, and has worked in higher education for over 52 years. Upon Dr. Rogers' impending retirement, the Chancellor praised his institutional knowledge and contribution to data analytics. The Chancellor concluded his statement with a final, formal congratulations to Dr. Jon Rogers.

4. Public Comment

The first to comment was the Florida Region Vice President of the FAMU National Alumni Association, William Yeomans. He spoke regarding Strategic Planning and Performance-Based Funding (PBF) goals. Mr. Yeomans believed the 2024 score is respectable but should be higher in context of the challenges FAMU has faced. Challenges include imbalanced student college readiness, academic development intervention, and various social issues and barriers. He believed he would see such an improvement due to the university's leadership. His statement was concluded upon the 2-minute time limit.

The second to make a public comment was the President of NCF Freedom, Jono Miller. He discussed the New College's Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP), Accountability Plan, and Educational Plant Survey. Firstly, Mr. Miller said that the nature of the Accountability Plan blocking the tuition system, by extension, incentivizes students to take only 3 courses in a semester. Secondly, the Educational Plant Survey correctly recommended a new facility but did not explore further cite related factors like campus development agreement, campus lease agreement and issues with the FAA, among others. He said this approval should not have been made based on unapproved draft campus master plan. He left a copy of written statements on file with the Board of Governors staff. He concluded his statement.

The third to make a public comment was Panagioti Tslokas seeking to offer comment on the Upland preserve, but then indicated he was speaking on the educational plant survey. Mr. Tslokas shared concerns of the oversight of the Facilities committee failing to look at the campus master plan violations that are relevant to the educational plant survey. He noted that 100's of comments were shared with the Chancellor, and Board may take up an emergency meeting to address this matter if the Board does not wish to address this issue presently. Rachel Kamoutsas concluded Mr. Tslokas' comments due to the item not being in relation to the agenda item.

Robert Rosa appeared to comment on "preserve", Rachel Kamoutsas noted that was not an item on the agenda. Mr. Rosa noted that lands that were trusted to these colleges are slowly being taken away for "bigger development bigger colleges", and as educational people/human beings, he expressed "we are going in the wrong direction". He urged the public to look at where we are and where we came from to make the right decisions. He indicated the environmental choices being made are harmful to the students. Rachel Kamoutsas concluded Mr. Rosa's statement due to not being in relation to an item on the agenda.

The next member of the public to make a public comment was Chris Castillo who wished to comment on preserves, Rachel Kamoutsas noted that was not an item on the agenda. Mr. Castillo began comment in a non-translated language, noting that was his native language. He continued in English stating that it is about land, promise, trust and the colonial mindset take over. He claimed there was a colonized mindset and desire to destroy, with a failure to understand the impact on trust. Rachel Kamoutsas concluded Mr. Castillo's statement due to not being in relation to an item on the agenda.

The next to make a public comment was Madeline Delia seeking to make comment on academic and student affairs reports. Ms. Delia began to address UCF student [indiscernible], who allegedly appeared at an October 7 memorial threatening to "shoot it up." She was concerned that, that student did not have adequate consequences, and further complained regarding escalation of violence towards Israeli/Jewish students. Rachel Kamoutsas concluded Ms. Delia's statement due to not being in relation to an item on the agenda.

The last member of the public to make a comment was Marcus Poiser. Mr. Poiser offered a "general comment" regarding the Board claiming to be supporters of higher education, yet at the same time sociology was "delisted." That shocked Mr. Poiser. He further commented that the support of some majors over others is contrary to supporting higher education. Rachel Kamoutsas concluded Mr. Poiser's statement due to not being in relation to an item on the agenda.

Rachel Kamoutsas then yielded the floor back to Chair Lamb.

5. Approval of the Creation of Subsidiaries for Atchley-Moffitt Cancer Center Research Institute

The Deputy General Counsel for Moffit Cancer Center, Chip Fletcher, appeared to request approval of establishing additional subsidiaries to expand access to immunotherapy cancer treatments. He cited Florida law establishing the Moffit Cancer Center to be a statewide resources for prevention and cure of cancer. Moffit has oversight and reporting relationship

through the Board of Governors. The purpose of establishing these subsidiaries would be to assist in training other health care providers to offer these services. There is a lot of institutional capacity required beyond the physicians and nurses to be able to provide these treatments effectively and there has been an increase in demand for these services.

He noted the request was previously unanimously approved by the Moffit Board of Directors. He welcomed questions from the Board. Governor Cerio confirmed that the purpose for this request is to preserve Moffit's non-profit tax-exempt status and these subsidiaries would be a for-profit entities. Governor Levine also confirmed the purpose was to allow research to be translated to commercialize the work done to get outside investment and recognize the commercial valuation that these companies should earn. He noted that since Moffit remains tax-exempt but allowed to create for-profit subsidiaries, it is appropriate for Moffit to seek Board approval for this activity. Governor Jones also stated there was precedent for this type of request. Chair Lamb called for a motion to approve the creation of the two new subsidiaries. It was moved by Governor Jones and seconded by Vice-Chair Levine, and the motion was carried.

6. Presidential Search Report for Florida Atlantic University

Chair Lamb moved to the Presidential Search Report for Florida Atlantic University. Mr. Tslokas spoke up from the audience requesting a response to his comments from earlier in the meeting. Chair Lamb repeatedly invited Mr. Tslokas to take a seat, after further disruption, Mr. Tslokas was asked to leave.

Governor Mateer reported that the chair has picked the fifteen-member committee that will begin the search for the next president of Florida Atlantic University. The Search Committee Chair has been picked and is negotiating with a search firm; the search will begin soon and hopes to conclude within the first quarter of 2025. Chair Lamb then handed the floor over to Chair Bussani.

Chair Bussani first praised FAU's current president, Stacy Volnick, for her impactful leadership and great influence on the university. Chair Bussani then reported that the search would be thorough and dependable and turned the floor back to Chair Lamb.

7. Presentation of Board of Governors Resolutions

Chair Lamb first recognized Dr. Randy Avent's 10 years of service and invited Dr. Avent to share a few remarks. Dr. Avent reflected on his time serving Florida Poly, thanked the Board of Governors for guidance over the creation and growth of Florida Poly. Chair Lamb also recognized Chair Cliff Otto from the Florida Polytechnic Board of Trustees, who will stay on the Board but conclude his time as Chair. Chair Lamb complimented Chair Otto's succession planning of hiring a new president for the university and opened the floor to Chair Otto. Chair Otto complimented Florida Poly's progress to stand alongside the 11 other SUS institutions and noted confidence in the new chair Beth Kegel.

Chair Lamb recognized Governor Jack Hitchcock, from FSU, as the student representative on the Board of Governors. Chair Lamb complimented Governor Hitchcock as an active and vocal member of the Board.

Finally, Chair Lamb recognized Darlene Jordan who has served on the Board of Governors, including on several committees and holding leadership roles on those committees. Governor Levine echoed compliments for Governor Jordan, noted that she was a prosecutor, engaged in philanthropy with several institutions of higher education. Governor Cerio also praised Governor Jordan indicating she will be missed. Governor Jordan thanked the members for the kind words. She noted that one of the things she will miss most is being on campus to see the students and the university community which energized her. She complimented the numerous Governors she has worked with who share the common interest in doing what is best for Florida's students and faculty. Chair Lamb called for a motion to adopt the resolutions recognizing former President Avent, Student-Governor Hitchcock, and Governor Jordan. The motion first made by Governor Cerio and seconded by Governor Levine and was carried without further comments.

8. Consent Agenda

Chair Lamb took up the consent agenda, confirming no items had been removed from the consent agenda and no member presently wished to remove an item. Chair Lamb called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Governor Bell Barnett moved first, a second motion was made by Governor Mateer, motion carried.

9. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Lamb adjourned the meeting.