

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ZOOM Meeting
October 18, 2024

1. Call to Order

Chair Lamb called the Full Board meeting in Order. The following members were present: Chair Lamb, Governors: Levine, Bell Barnett, Brinkman, Cerio, Diaz, Frost, Good, Haddock, Jones, Oliva, Phalin, Silagy. Quorum was met.

2. Chair's Remarks

Chair Lamb moved directly into the Chancellor's Update. (The Chair's remarks were provided at the beginning of the committee meeting.)

3. Chancellor's Update and Remarks

Chancellor Rodrigues echoed the sentiments offered earlier by Chair Lamb, complimenting the institutions on improved rankings and their hurricane response. Chancellor Rodrigues also noted that since the last Board meeting, the October 7 anniversary passed. While many student organizations planned events for that day, due to Hurricanes Milton and Helene, those events were interrupted. Some of those events have been rescheduled. Institutions are remaining vigilant and in communication with students and law enforcement to promote peaceful and lawful demonstrations.

The Chancellor also provided an update on the accreditation lawsuit, where the state of Florida challenged the constitutionality of US Department of Education's use of accreditation agencies as part of the process to approve whether an institution is eligible to receive federal funding within the meaning of the Higher Education Act. The federal district court dismissed the state of Florida's claim but our office remains in communication with the Attorney General's Office regarding next steps.

4. Public Comment

Two members of the public offered public comment. Mike Sanderson appeared first, to discuss his concerns regarding the approval of the reappointment of FAU's Interim President. The second member of the public, Benjamin Brown, commented on repealing regulation 8.010, Common Prerequisites as it specifically related to New College of Florida with an interest in continuing to afford flexibility to NCF.

5. Approval of Florida Atlantic University Interim President

Chair Bussani requested confirmation of President Volnick's reappointment as interim president consistent with Board of Governors Regulation 1.001 with a term to run from January 31, 2025 to December 31, 2025, or until the installation of a permanent President, and consistent with the terms of the employment agreement. Chair Bussani

highlighted President Volnick's achievements. Governor Levine moved to approve the recommendation of Chair Bussani, Governor Frost properly motioned to second, no further discussion was held, and the motion carried.

6. Approval of Extension of Contract for University of West Florida

Chair Susan Lewis was called on to present the recommendation to extend the contract for the President of University of West Florida, Martha Saunders. Chair Lewis recounted that the UWF Board of trustees unanimously approved the employment agreement to extend her contractual term through December 31, 2025. Chair Lewis highlighted the positive contributions of President Saunders, resulting in increased visibility for the university among other benefits. The Board had no questions or comments to add; Chair Lamb called for a motion to approve the extension of contract. Governor Phalin motioned and Governor Frost properly seconded the motion. No further discussion was held, and the motion carried.

7. Consent Agenda

Governor Cerio moved to approve the consent agenda and seconded by Governor Haddock, no further discussion was held and the motion to approve carried.

8. Closing Remarks

Chair Lamb thanked those for joining, announced the next Board meeting to be held on October 30th in Miami at Florida International University and concluded the meeting.

Brian Lamb, Board Chair

Rachel Kamoutsas
Corporate Secretary