

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
The Edition Hotel
September 17th, 2024
Working Lunch: Governance Discussion
Duration: 1 hour

1. Call to Order.

Chair Lamb, Vice Chair Levine, and Governors Bell Barnett, Cerio, Edge, Frost, Haddock, Brinkman, Jones, Oliva, Phalin, and Silagy were present, and a quorum was met.

2. Chair's Comments.

Chair Lamb began by reflecting on the board's demonstrations of civil discourse and the areas of improvement surrounding the Board as seen in the past 3 self-evaluations over the course of 4 or more years. He addressed common themes within discussions regarding the Board's strengths like the ability to unify on tough issues, and advocacy for the system. He also discussed areas of interest for improvement such as opportunities that would allow for more engagement from the Board and increased discussion on policy issues as a group. He then opened the floor for more examples of focus.

3. Board's Comments.

Vice Chair Levine addressed instances where the Board was not unanimous but the Board remained civil he also praised the Board in their approach on operating as the governing board while allowing the institutions latitude in their delegated authority. He also discussed issues of unity and the need for healthy disagreements and elaborated on the importance of informed discussions to effectively govern and ensure the principles of the constitutional governance of the system.

Governor Bell Barnett reflected on her interest as a new board member to have more insight into updates regarding the system, instead of learning of issues through the media. Additional board members agreed that it is important for Board members to be informed in a timely manner. She also reflected on potential updates to the Board of Governor's Bylaws and compare our bylaws to those of the Boards of Trustees. She also expressed an interest in whether our Board should seek an audit of remote paid faculty. She highlighted certain policies and compared them between Boards which opened the floor to discuss comments regarding the University Presidential Search practices.

Governor Phalin commented in regard to the review of faculty teaching remotely, that the Board should consider all aspects of the position and reasons why the faculty would be teaching remotely to provide a complete picture of the situation.

Additional governors commented regarding President Sasse stepping down and the absence of communication on this to the Board members. The Florida Auditor General's audit was

acknowledged. Governor Phalin and Governor Brinkman observed that the UF Board did a good job hiring the President, allowing the President to attempt to execute his vision but also quickly identifying and addressing the problem. Board members commented on ensuring each university is treated equally and without special treatment.

Chair Lamb recapped the themes of improvement on board being informed, more visibility on remote faculty teaching, and review of Board Bylaws. Additional comments from governors included:

Governor Bell Barnett commented on the interest in having greater insight and understanding of the progress and development of strategic plans.

Governor Lydecker agreed that UF's Board of Trustees handled concerns surrounding President Sasse quickly and efficiently, he also noted that the request to look at remote faculty is really to scrutinize faculty that is recalcitrant, and he finally noted that Board of Governors terms is for 7 years which builds in time to get oriented to the System and institutions.

Governor Bell Barnett commented on the importance of recognizing presidential search committee members time and work in selecting a president for a university.

Governor Silagy expressed interest in hearing an update on the FL Auditor General process. Rachel Kamoutsas, Corporate secretary indicated a high-level overview will be provided at the Board of Governors meeting.

4. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment.

Chair Lamb recapped the discussion and concluded by transitioning to lunch. Retreat adjourned.