

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
September 18, 2024

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

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/9-18-24-florida-board-of-governors-meeting-part-1/>

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks.

Chair Jones convened the meeting at 9:10 a.m. with the following Governors present: Governors Jones, Oliva, Brinkman, Frost, Good, Mateer, and Phalin. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Chair Jones requested a motion to approve the Strategic Planning Committee meeting minutes from June 27, 2024. Governor Good moved to approve, Governor Frost seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

3. Accreditation Update

Chair Jones stated that he would like to hear updates regarding accreditation changes from throughout the State University System.

Chair Jones recognized Dr. Alexander Cartwright, President of the University of Central Florida (UCF), to provide an update. President Cartwright reported that progress has been made on UCF's Higher Learning Commission (HLC) application. President Cartwright mentioned that UCF plans to submit Step Two of its application on October 21, 2024. Step Three will be an on-site visit anticipated to take place in late spring of 2025. President Cartwright reported that the final part of the process will be approval by HLC, which is anticipated in fall 2025, keeping UCF on the timeframe of the 18-month accelerated process. President Cartwright reported that, following approval from the HLC, the application will go to the United States Department of Education for final approval.

Chair Jones recognized Dr. Devin Stephenson, President of Florida Polytechnic University, to provide an update. President Stephenson reported that on September 11, 2024, Florida Poly received notice from the United States Department of Education that reasonable cause had been determined to allow Florida Poly to change its accreditor. President Stephenson reported that Florida Poly will begin the HLC accelerated process for initial accreditation immediately, submitting their application in October of 2024. An on-site visit by HLC is anticipated for November 2025, with action by HLC by February 2026.

Governor Levine thanked the institutions leading the HLC application process and HLC for assisting the institutions throughout their respective application processes.

Governor Good welcomed President Stephenson and recognized him for participating in his first Board of Governors meeting as President of Florida Polytechnic University.

Chair Jones recognized Dr. Moez Limayem, President of the University of North Florida (UNF), to provide an update. President Limayem reported that on September 10, 2024, he met with the United States Department of Education, and UNF received a letter documenting additional clarifications. President Limayem reported that the university plans to submit a response to these clarifications in the next few months.

4. Strategic Plan Update

Chair Jones highlighted the progress that has been made through the five Strategic Planning sessions and the active institutional participation. Chair Jones emphasized the continued importance of integrating university input into the Strategic Plan, encouraging Presidents and campus partners to communicate their ideas to the Board.

Chair Jones recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to provide an update on the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Sikes presented that over the summer of 2024, a steering committee that contained representation from across the State University System met to discuss the framework for the strategic plan. Ms. Sikes reported that several of the focus areas for the steering group included developing a brand for the State University System and coordinating a plan to encourage the twelve institutions to work together as one by improving communication and coordination. Additionally, Ms. Sikes included that the steering committee discussed the concept of an industry strategy which included the importance of tracking graduate outcomes and developing partnerships with companies and employers in Florida. Ms. Sikes mentioned that the steering group developed a concept around superpowers where each of the twelve universities identify unique strengths and aspirations around these strengths or superpowers.

President Cartwright expressed his appreciation to the Board for including the institutions in the Strategic Plan process and for encouraging their input.

5. 2024 System Accountability Plan

Chair Jones recognized Ms. Sikes to present the highlights of the 2024 System Accountability Plan. Ms. Sikes referred to a graphic from the June 2024 presentation, stating that there has been great progress in the areas of student success, increasing graduate salaries, and innovative research.

Ms. Sikes noted that currently, eleven of the thirty-two metric goals in 2025 Strategic Plan have been met, while eighteen of those metric goals have not been met. However, Ms. Sikes mentioned that eight of those eighteen unmet goals are close to being met, such as the research goal and the four-year graduation rate. This data also includes three metrics that do not possess a goal.

Ms. Sikes presented selected key metrics and explained the importance of tracking them and utilizing them to encourage growth within the State University System. Ms. Sikes noted that currently, approximately 74% of graduates were found to be enrolled or employed and making \$40,000 or more. Ms. Sikes also noted that the Academic Progress Rate is currently sitting directly below the Board's goal of 90%, with signs of the rate trending upward. Ms. Sikes continued by providing an update on the continued increase of the FTIC four-year Graduation Rate and mentioned that the current percentage of 63% is very close to the goal of 65%.

Ms. Sikes stated that the institutions are doing extremely well in the metric concerning Pell Students and their four-year graduation rate. Ms. Sikes also provided an update on the Florida College System (FCS) AA Transfer Three-year Graduation Rate, mentioning that the current percentage is sitting directly below the 2025 system goal of 62%. Ms. Sikes included that when tracking began just a few years ago, that rate was in the 50% range. Ms. Sikes provided an update on the final metric, Total Research Expenditures, stating that the current number is extremely close to hitting the 2025 System Goal of \$3 billion.

Chair Jones requested a motion to adopt the 2024 System Accountability Plan. Governor Phalin moved, Governor Frost seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. 2024-25 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposals

Chair Jones recognized Ms. Sikes to present the 2024-25 LINE Fund Proposals.

Ms. Sikes noted that as of September 13, 2024, eight institutions had submitted a total of eighteen proposals for partnerships with eligible healthcare partners. Ms. Sikes mentioned that upon review, Board staff had determined that the proposals met the criteria for participation, and staff would recommend moving them forward for funding. Ms. Sikes noted that the LINE funds have had a tangible, positive effect on supporting the critical workforce need for nurses in Florida. Due to the LINE program, Ms. Sikes mentioned that universities have provided a few hundred scholarships to nursing students and increased the capacity of nursing programs.

Chair Jones requested a motion to adopt LINE funding for this fiscal year. Commissioner Diaz moved, Governor Mateer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Ken Jones, Chair

Tyler Aldinger, Assistant Director,
Academic and Student Affairs