

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
University of North Florida
January 30th, 2025
Full Board

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

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/1-30-25-florida-board-of-governors-meeting/>

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

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

2. Chair's Remarks to the Board

Chair Lamb began his remarks by showing gratitude to all the members present and stated how proud he is to serve alongside everyone in the SUS. He noted that the strategic plan is a great representation of where the System was headed. He reflected on the highlights of 2024, including the economic impact of the SUS, the record year for the graduation rates, the record year for the percentage of students graduating without debt, and the record year in research. He reflected on the incredible things that have happened at the Universities within the SUS and the universities have demonstrated a great return on investment for the state. Chair Lamb ended his remarks by encouraging the members and staff within the SUS to stay on the course and stay committed to the high levels of integrity captured within the SUS values. Chair Lamb concluded with an overview of a performance review for Chancellor Rodrigues, complimenting his performance over the prior year. Governor Levine echoed complimentary sentiments on Chancellor Rodrigues's performance.

3. Chancellor's Remarks to the Board

Chancellor Rodrigues shared that he has attended various higher education conferences in the past 6 months with various stakeholders in attendance. The biggest topic of conversation and biggest concern at these conferences is confidence in higher education. The Chancellor discussed concerning trends indicating a decline in the public's confidence in higher education. Following up on the reason for a lack of confidence were three main reasons: 1. Indoctrination in education; 2. Wrong focus/value in degrees; 3. Cost and debt of higher education. He further discussed the effects of the decline in confidence, one of which is an impending decline in higher education enrollment. Other effects included closing campuses and merging institutions. The Chancellor recognized

that the General Education courses that were approved by the Board that day would not contain indoctrinating concepts and no other public system can attest to that.

Chancellor Rodrigues elaborated on other measures that Florida has taken that will improve confidence in higher education in Florida. He also noted that all the hard work that was put into creating the 2030 Strategic Plan would prepare our system for the difficult times that are anticipated to come in higher ed. He shared updates on recent changes to the Board of Governors office staff roles. After making a few final comments regarding the Board Self Evaluation and budgetary constraints for this upcoming legislative session, he concluded his statement.

4. Public Comment

There were four public comments.

The first to comment was Dr. Cynthia Patterson regarding workforce preparation, professionalization, and the importance of experimental learning. She urged their inclusion within higher education and spoke from a professor's point of view.

Dr. Matthew Leon made the second comment regarding academic and student affairs but then focused on DEI.

The third comment was made by Mr. Mike Sanderson regarding the strategic plan.

The fourth comment was from Mr. Jono Miller regarding academic and student affairs. He spoke about the content taught at differing levels of Florida's higher education.

Rachel Kamoutsas then concluded this portion of the meeting.

5. Extension of Employment

Chair Lamb introduced the extension of employment for the University of Central Florida president, Dr. Alexander Cartwright, and gave the floor to Chair Martins. Chair Martins presented the UCF Board of Trustees' unanimous recommendation for the appointment of the standing president. Governor Jones made a motion to approve Dr. Cartwright's reappointment, which was moved and properly seconded by Governor Lydecker, and the motion carried.

6. Presidential Searches

The first presidential search report comes from Florida Atlantic University. Chair Lamb gave the floor to Governor Mateer, who reported that three finalists will conduct their final interviews during the second week of February.

The second presidential search report comes from Florida A&M University. Chair Lamb gave the floor to Governor Levine, who reported that the search committee was appointed, an organizational committee was held and a calendar has been put out for a process and aspire to have candidates prepared for campus visits by April.

The third presidential search report comes from the University of Florida. Chair Lamb gave the floor to Governor Lydecker, who reported that Chair Patel organized several working groups, and thus far, the search committee has held 10 listening sessions to solicit input from various campus stakeholders. The search committee is moving to make a recommendation to the Board of Trustee on marketing plan and compensation range.

Chair Lamb concluded this portion of the meeting.

7. Consent Agenda

Chair Lamb reported that the final item was to approve the consent agenda. It was moved by Governor Levine and seconded by Governor Jones. The motion was carried.

8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Lamb adjourned the meeting.