Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes
October 1, 2026
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Board of Trustees Room and ZOOM

Members Present: William Trapani, Kim Dunn, Bruce Arneklev, David Newman, Chris Beetle, Meredith Mountford, Carla Calargé, and LeaAnne DeRigne.

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm by Chair, Dr. William Trapani.

2. UFS Steering minutes
   The UFS Steering minutes from September 3, 2026, were **approved by the committee.**

3. President's Report
   Dr. Trapani provided updates on the following:
   - **Dr. Jerry Haky**
     Acknowledged the passing of Dr. Jerry Haky, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and Biochemistry, who served FAU for 35 years and was deeply involved in faculty governance, including serving as Chair of the College of Science Faculty Assembly and UUPC. Condolences were extended to his family, friends, and colleagues. Information regarding a fund supporting undergraduate research in Chemistry, in accordance with the family's wishes, will be distributed separately.
   - **U.S. News & World Report Rankings**
     FAU was ranked 99th among public universities in the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings. Dr. Trapani acknowledged the contributions of faculty, staff, and students to the University's continued progress.
   - **Strategic Plan**
     Provided an update on the Strategic Plan implementation roadmap and upcoming opportunities for faculty participation.
   - **Board of Trustees**
     Provided an update regarding the recent Board of Trustees retreat.
   - **Board of Governors**
     Provided updates regarding upcoming Board of Governors matters, including a proposed regulation allowing undergraduate degree programs with fewer than 120 credit hours and the requirement for Boards of Trustees to develop Institutional Neutrality policies. He expressed appreciation to Kim Dunn for her work related to the Institutional Neutrality discussions.
   - **Faculty Senate Leadership**

Announced that Kim Dunn will retire from FAU at the end of the academic year and expressed appreciation for her longstanding service to Faculty Senate governance. David Newman will serve as Past President beginning at the end of the academic year.

4. Guest Speakers
   None.

5. Open Forum with the Provost
   Provost Ken Dawson-Scully provided updates on the following:
   - **U.S. News & World Report Rankings**
     FAU was ranked 99th among public universities in the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings. He thanked faculty, staff, and students for their contributions to the University's continued success. FAU was also recognized as 68th nationally for Best Value for In-State Students.
   - **College of Education**
     Announced the appointment of Charles Dukes as Dean of the College of Education, effective September 18. He expressed confidence in Dr. Dukes' leadership and noted the importance of providing stability and support to the College.
   - **Dean of Academic Success Search**
     The search committee has begun its work and received more than 200 applications. He noted that more than 40 applicants initially appeared to be strong candidates. He also emphasized that the position should have the ability to obtain tenure at FAU and serve as a faculty representative.
   - **Summer Enrollment**
     Reported a 5% increase in student credit hours during the summer following an initiative that involved several colleges. He noted the financial benefit of the increase and expressed interest in continuing to expand summer teaching opportunities for faculty who are able and interested in teaching.
   - **Transfer Student Enrollment and Articulation**
     Spring transfer enrollment is currently up 120%. He discussed efforts to expand articulation agreements with institutions across the state, including pathways beyond traditional 2+2 agreements and opportunities leading to master's degrees and 4+1 programs.
   - **Center for Global Engagement**
     The Center for Global Engagement will relocate to the College of Education due to ongoing building and health concerns. The Center and College of Education are exploring opportunities for specialized programs. Study Abroad operations will relocate to the Library.
   - **Upcoming Dates**
     He noted upcoming university dates, including FAU Alert System testing on October 9 at 9:30 a.m., Advanced Registration beginning November 2, and the November 5 football game. The University is evaluating a potential early campus closure on November 5 to minimize impacts on faculty and students.
   - **SPOTs**
     Discussed the ongoing work regarding SPOTs and noted that departments and colleges

currently use SPOT results differently in annual evaluations and promotion and tenure. He emphasized the importance of maintaining flexibility while improving transparency and identifying best practices across the University. He also noted concerns regarding potential bias in the current SPOT instrument.

- **Strategic Plan**
  Provided an update on the Strategic Plan implementation roadmap. A draft has not yet been presented to the Board of Trustees, but the he anticipates that the roadmap will subsequently be shared with colleges and departments to allow for broader input and participation.
- **Dr. Jerry Haky**
  He also acknowledged the passing of Dr. Jerry Haky, noting his significant influence on faculty governance. He expressed condolences to Dr. Haky's family and friends.

6. Committee Reports
   Kim Dunn, Chair, Academic Planning and Budget Committee
   - SPOTs
     - FAU Spot Education Campaign and Visuals Proposed (004)
       The Committee presented recommendations developed by a working group to better educate students about the importance of SPOTs and encourage greater student participation. The Provost's Office will assist with implementing recommendations.
     - Spot question recommendations
       The Committee reviewed SPOT questions used across the State University System and developed recommendations for revised questions addressing both the course and instructor. The proposed revisions would use a consistent response scale and include additional open-ended questions.

7. UPC Consent Agenda
   Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering.
   Motion carries.

8. UPC Action Agenda
   1. Education
   Combined Program Proposals
   Two related College of Education proposals involving the Bachelor of Early Care and Education and the Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with an Early Childhood Education concentration were bundled for consideration.
   Motion: A motion was made to bundle the items. The motion carries.
   Motion: A motion was made to move forward the bundled proposals with a positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**

9. UGC Consent Agenda
   Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering.
   Motion carries.

10. UGC Action Agenda

Motion: A motion was made to move forward with a positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**

11. Old Business
    None.

12. New Business
    None.

13. Good of the Steering Committee
    Student Pathways and Academic Planning
    - The Committee discussed student pathways, advising, and communication between University Advising Services, colleges, departments, and faculty.
    - Discussion included the implementation of Stellic**,** the University's academic planning and degree-audit platform, which will provide students with individualized pathways and allow the University to better understand future course demand.
    - The Committee also discussed the importance of ensuring that information regarding student pathways, course demand, and potential course or process roadblocks reaches departments and faculty.

14. **Meeting adjourned at 3:22 pm.**