



**Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes
August 28, 2025
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
ZOOM**

Members Present: William Trapani, Kim Dunn, Bruce Arneklev, David Newman, Khaled Sobhan, Chris Beetle, LeaAnne DeRigne and Meredith Mountford

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Chair, Dr. William Trapani.
2. UFS Steering minutes
 - The UFS Steering minutes from [April 10, 2025](#), and the UFS Special Steering minutes from [May 8, 2025](#), were **approved by the committee**.
3. President's Report
Dr. Trapani's Report Highlights:
 - President Hasner's Engagement: Dr. Trapani acknowledged the President's continued active engagement with the university community throughout the summer.
 - Freshman Convocation: Dr. Trapani noted that FAU welcomed its largest and most academically competitive incoming class at the recent convocation, which required two sessions due to size.
 - Provost Search: The Provost search process is underway, with the committee beginning file review. Dean Forbes, Chair of the search committee, will provide a timeline update at the October 6 Senate meeting. Candidate campus visits are anticipated between October 13–25. Faculty feedback opportunities will be provided during this period.
 - Academic Affairs Highlights
 - Retention: First-year to second-year student retention reached 86%, exceeding previous years' performance.
 - Provost Recognition: Provost Russ Ivy received an international leadership award for lifetime achievement and contributions to advancing international education.
 - University Rankings: Washington Monthly recognized the university as a "Best-in-Class College," highlighting FAU's success in enrolling students

from modest backgrounds, maintaining low costs, and producing strong outcomes.

- Board of Trustees and Budget Updates
 - The June meeting approved the upcoming academic year's budget. Key points included provisions for student-athlete compensation and ongoing discussions regarding a proposed budget model.
 - Student-Athlete Compensation: \$5 million has been allocated over the next two to three years for student-athlete compensation, funded from auxiliary account money. Further discussions on funding and implementation will occur in the future.
 - Budget Model Review: A comparative analysis of the existing and proposed budget models is underway, with results to be reviewed at the Board of Trustees retreat in October.
 - Next Board of Trustees Meeting: Scheduled for September 9 (virtual meeting).
- Board of Governors Updates
 - Recognition was given to Dr. Kim Dunn for her service on the Board of Governors.
 - The Board of Governors has proposed establishing a new accreditation agency, the Commission on Public Higher Education, involving six state university systems, to oversee public higher education standards.
 - The Board has also introduced a proposed regulation change regarding textbook affordability (Regulation 8.003), requiring assignments and readings to be posted 45 days in advance. This proposal is currently in development, with a public comment period forthcoming.
 - Next Board of Governors Meeting: Scheduled for September 10–11.
- Wallach Holocaust and Jewish Studies Building: The official groundbreaking was celebrated, highlighting its future role in housing programs such as Peace, Justice, and Human Rights, and fostering community engagement.

4. Guest Speakers

- No speakers were present at this meeting.
- Dr. Trapani noted that, while there were no scheduled speakers for the Steering Committee meeting, the following presentations are planned for the upcoming Senate session, pending Steering approval. The first will address students in distress and disruptive student protocols, featuring Dr. Laura Dipasquale, Director of Counseling & Psychological Services; Chief Sean Brammer, University Police; and Dr. Larry Faerman, Vice President of Student Affairs. The second presentation will provide an update on student government activities and will be delivered by Darsham Gonzalez, FAU Student Body President.
- The Steering Committee approved the scheduled presentations for the Senate session.

5. Open Forum with the Provost

Provost Ivy reported on the following:

- Strategic Planning: The President is expected to initiate a strategic planning process this fall.
- Textbook Update: All course materials must be posted at least 45 days before the term and will remain publicly available for five years. Flexibility for new or updated materials is allowed with departmental approval. Faculty will have a comment period on draft regulations, with oversight by the Board of Governors.
- Curriculum Update: Provost Ivy reported on curriculum updates mandated by the Florida Department of Education during May and June, particularly within the College of Education, including modifications to Teacher Education and counseling programs.
- HLC Accreditation Process: Provost Ivy noted that the university is beginning the paperwork and paying necessary fees to initiate the HLC accreditation process. He emphasized that the university remains fully accredited under SACS until 2034, ensuring continuity while transitioning to HLC. The move to HLC will secure long-term accreditation, and there is no immediate requirement to transition to the new statewide accreditation entity.
- Wallach Event and Building Update: Provost Ivy provided a brief recap of the Wallach groundbreaking event, describing it as a well-attended and successful occasion. He also reported progress on the Health Science building, noting that planning has officially begun with a kickoff meeting and the engagement of a consulting firm. The university has received \$10 million for the planning phase, with construction funding expected in phased increments.
- Enrollment Updates: Provost Ivy reported that total enrollment has surpassed 32,000 students, a historic milestone for the university. The FTIC (first-time-in-college) cohort totals 4,227 students. He noted that out-of-state undergraduate enrollment is higher than previous years and mentioned ongoing discussions about possible adjustments to state-wide enrollment limits.

6. Committee Reports

None.

7. [UPC Consent Agenda](#)

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

8. [UPC Action Agenda](#)

Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering with minor wording changes to clarify that both GPA requirements and faculty recommendation are required for awarding honors of the university-wide Baccalaureate Degrees of Distinction policy. **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](#)

- College of Business
 - **Motion:** A motion was made to consider as bundle. **Motion carries.**
 - **Motion:** A motion was made to move forward **with no recommendation. Motion Carries.**
- College of Education
 - **Motion:** A motion was made to postpone consideration until the next Steering Committee meeting and request a representative from the proposing department to clarify the proposal. **Motion carries.**
- College of Medicine
 - MS in Biomedical Science – for MD Students
 - **Motion:** A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**
 - MS in Biomedical Science
 - **Motion:** A motion was made to move forward with a positive recommendation contingent on striking “at least” from biology courses. **Motion carries.**
- Graduate College
 - Vertically Integrated Projects Graduate Research
 - **Motion:** A motion was made to forward with a positive recommendation, amended to include a short memo explaining the intended purpose of the course. **Motion carries.**

11. Old Business

- Bylaws
 - Dr. Trapani discussed the committee’s multi-year effort to revise the bylaws. After addressing formatting and tracking issues over the summer, the revised bylaws will be sent to members for review and are scheduled for discussion and approval at the September 22nd meeting.
 - **Motion:** A motion was made to move the revised bylaws forward for review. **Motion carries.**
- Curriculum Process

- Dr. Trapani discussed the commission process, highlighting efforts led by Dr. Kim Dunn to standardize program change and course proposal forms for greater uniformity and electronic accessibility. The work is part of a larger university initiative involving catalog revisions and software systems, though full implementation may take several years.

12. New Business

- Reconciling the Academic Integrity Toolkit with Reg 4.001
 - [Faculty Template 1 - Instructor's Initial Request for Meeting DM2025](#)
 - [Faculty Template 2 - Instructor Notice Template DM2025](#)
 - [Faculty Template 3 - Instructor Notice Template_Student Fails to Respond DM2025](#)
 - [Chair Template 4 - Summary of the Chair DM2025](#)
 - [Dean Template 5 - Findings of the Dean's Council DM2025](#)
 - [Template 6 - Letter to Registrar from Chair](#)
 - [Flowchart 2025](#)
- Dr. Trapani emphasized that the updated academic integrity toolkit provides much-needed clarity for faculty on handling violations, including guidance on next steps and communication, making an often-complex policy easier to follow. This item was presented as an informational update for Senate, with no formal action required.
- **Motion:** A motion was made to include the toolkit as a new business item on the Senate agenda. **Motion carries.**

13. Good of the Steering Committee

Steering members emphasized proactive planning and committee engagement, including accelerating elections and ensuring full committee staffing. They highlighted opportunities to invite potential speakers—such as President’s office representatives, business development staff, and BOD/BOG personnel—to provide updates on strategic planning, budgets, and other university matters. They also discussed fostering dialogue with student government and administrative staff, reinforcing transparency and collaboration for the broader academic community.

14. Meeting adjourned at 3:58 pm.