



Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes
March 13, 2025
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
ZOOM

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Chair, Dr. Kim Dunn.

2. UFS Steering minutes

- The UFS Steering minutes from [February 13, 2025](#), were **approved by the committee.**

3. President's Report

Dr. Dunn's Report Highlights:

- UFS Committee Reports from February are complete, with remaining reports scheduled for March and April.
- Congratulated Dr. Edwards (College of Nursing) and Dr. Hawkins (Social Work & Criminal Justice) for earning faculty emeritus status.
- Announced completion of ongoing presidential search committee report, which had been on the agenda for 3 years.
- Welcomed President Hasner.

4. Guest Speakers

- Mr. Adam Hasner, President

President Hasner thanked the Faculty Senate Steering Committee for the invitation and the opportunity to have an informal conversation on his 4th official day as President. He expressed excitement about meeting people and exploring the university during his first two weeks.

- He has planned visits to all six campuses:
- **Tomorrow:** Davie and Fort Lauderdale
- **Next week:** Dania, Jupiter, and Fort Pierce
- This week, he met with student leaders, the alumni board, and the foundation board. He also plans to meet with the Presidents of Broward State College and Palm Beach State College, as well as business leaders in both counties.

- President Hasner noted that he spoke with the Provost and Dr. Ivy indicated he would be available to the end of a national search for new permanent provost but that he preferred not to pursue the position himself as Dr. Ivy believed that individual should come from an R1 institution so that they can help guide our development. Accordingly, President Hasner committed to a national search likely to conclude sometime around January 2026.
- President Hasner is holding ongoing high-level briefings with the executive leadership team and attended Dr. Ivy's Council of Deans meeting. He will also have one-on-one meetings with all college Deans in the first two weeks.
- Emphasizing the importance of learning from faculty and maintaining respectful dialogue during disagreements, he distributed an overview of the university's legislative budget request for the 2025 session. This request includes funding for an interdisciplinary health services building to support the College of Medicine, College of Nursing, and School of Social Work.
- President Hasner also shared that the College of Medicine has grown from 64 students in 2007 to 80 students and highlighted the request for additional funding to support further expansion.
- President Hasner spoke to the cancelled search for a Dean in the College of Education and said that he had asked the search to be suspended so that he could be involved in the process going forward.
- In addition, President Hasner announced the hiring of Todd Reid as his new Chief of Staff. He expressed confidence in Todd's ability to help navigate the complexity of leadership at the university and emphasized that Todd's role would be vital in managing the flow of information and supporting the leadership team.
- Lastly, President Hasner spoke about the development of the next strategic plan for the university. As Florida Atlantic University completes the "Path to Excellence" plan from 2015-2025, he outlined the process for the new plan, which will lay out the university's vision for the next five years and beyond. The goal is to position the university at the forefront of higher education in the state and across the country, keeping pace with demographic changes and technological advancements. He emphasized the importance of collaboration in shaping the university's future.

5. Committee Reports

- Policies and Procedures Committee, Vicki Brown, Chair
 - [Summary of changes to the ByLaws](#)
 - [Recommended revisions to be submitted to Senate](#)
 - Dr. Brown discussed the Policy Committee's work over the past two years.
 - Extensive deliberations to address various issues within the bylaws.
 - Committee consulted other universities in the state system to align Faculty Senate membership definitions.

- Suggested changes to clarify membership categories and the use of the collective bargaining agreement.
 - A meeting with Steering was scheduled for Monday at 3:00 PM to further discuss bylaw changes and provide a formal recommendation.
 - At the special steering session a motion was made to table the bylaw changes until the meeting. **Motion carries.**
 - Academic Freedom and Due Process committee, Dawn Rothe, Chair
 - [Statement on Free Expression](#)
 - Reviewed and adopted annually as per the Board of Governors' request.
 - Presented by Dr. Roth, same statement as last year.
 - The Academic Freedom and Due Process Committee unanimously recommended re-adopting the statement.
 - A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**
6. [UPC Consent Agenda](#)
Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**
7. [UPC Action Agenda](#)
Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**
8. [UGC Consent Agenda](#)
Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**
9. [UGC Action Agenda](#)
Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**
10. Old Business
- EDA 6053 Contemporary Trends in Education
 - Education Specialist (EDS) Concentration: School Leaders (K-12)
 - Master's (MED) Concentration: School Leaders (K-12)
 - M.Ed. in Special Education ABA Concentration

Items that were tabled at the past Senate meeting were discussed.

A motion was made to move these items forward with no recommendation, so they can be considered at the next Senate meeting. **Motion carries.**

11. New Business

- Curriculum Process
 - [New Course Draft](#)
 - [Terminate Course Draft](#)
 - [Course Change Draft](#)

Dr. Dunn presented a draft for new course proposals aimed at streamlining the process through automation, including signatures, and will develop software over the summer to improve efficiency. Feedback was gathered to refine the proposal content, with a focus on simplicity and clarity, while addressing concerns about software complexity and accessibility. Next, the task force will continue refining the process, with a motion to approve the forms at the next steering meeting.

- Recording Steering Committee Meetings

The committee discussed whether to record meetings and make them publicly available, with some members suggesting the decision be put to the Senate. Concerns about creating a public record and its potential legal implications, particularly under Florida Sunshine Laws, were raised, with the suggestion to consult legal counsel. It was proposed to start recording meetings in 2025. Motion to recommend record and available through the Steering website. **Motion carries.**

12. Open Forum with the Provost

- Provost Ivy reported on the following:
 - College of Education Search: One finalist declined the position, potentially leading to the re-opening of the search.
 - Holistic Evaluation of Degree Programs: Discussed a more comprehensive approach to evaluate programs, focusing on resources used versus graduates produced.
 - Board of Governors Review: The BOG will review degree programs on corrective action plans, with increased scrutiny on those flagged multiple times.
 - Common Prerequisite Manual Revision: A revision is underway to standardize transfer requirements across institutions for smoother student transitions.
 - Promotion and Tenure Process: Updates provided, with the Provost's office completing its part and handing over the process to President Hassan's office. Concerns about meeting deadlines for candidate results.
 - Post-Tenure Review (PTR) and Promotion Review: Review continues with the University committee completing its part; 84 PTR files are being processed.
 - Collective Bargaining Agreement: Faculty union's proposed agreement will be presented for ratification by March 28, with Board of Trustees presentation on April 8 if ratified.

- Florida Government Policy Changes: Ongoing discussions about potential policy changes; institutions must submit responses to new reporting criteria by summer, with a report due to the governor by September 1.
- Upcoming Board of Governors Meeting: UCF has a doctoral proposal on the agenda, and BOG will review the low-risk academic programs list related to foreign influence.
- Low-Risk Program List: Some programs may be removed from the list of low-risk programs, which currently requires extensive approval processes for hiring faculty or students from certain countries. However, concerns remain, especially in science and engineering.
- Program Closures or Teach-Outs: The Provost clarified that the university has never been forced to close a program because of low productivity. Some departments have voluntarily shut down persistently underperforming programs.
- Impact on Science and Engineering: Departments in these fields have expressed concerns about the low-risk program designation hindering their ability to recruit students and faculty.

13. Good of the Steering Committee
None.

14. **Meeting adjourned at 3:56 pm.**