



Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes
March 19, 2026
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
ZOOM

Members Present: William Trapani, Bruce Arneklev, David Newman, Chris Beetle, Meredith Mountford and Carla Calargé

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 [February 12, 2026](#), were approved by the committee.
3. President's Report
Dr. Trapani provided updates on the following:
 - Leadership Update
 - Announcement of Dr. Russell Ivy's departure to serve as Provost and Executive Vice President at DePaul University.
 - Dr. Trapani expressed appreciation for Dr. Ivy's significant contributions to the university.
 - Strategic Planning
 - Listening sessions have concluded.
 - A draft strategic plan is expected soon and will undergo further review.
 - Anticipated timeline includes Board of Trustees review in May and Board of Governors approval in June.
 - Legislative Updates
 - Passage of legislation expanding the Guardian Program to higher education institutions.
 - Plans to establish an ad hoc Campus Safety and Security Committee with faculty and administrative participation.
 - State budget remains pending; legislative funding priorities are currently on hold.
 - Academic Affairs / Syllabi Compliance
 - Updates regarding Board of Governors requirements for public syllabi posting.
 - Appreciation expressed to the Provost's Office for implementation support and faculty guidance.
 - Elections
 - Steering and Senate election processes have concluded; results forthcoming.

- Board of Governors / Board of Trustees
 - Upcoming Board of Governors meeting noted, with potential implications for academic programs (including sociology).
 - Next Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for April 21.
4. Guest Speakers
None.
5. Open Forum with the Provost
The Provost provided updates on the following:
- Leadership Transition
 - Dr. Russell Ivy will remain through the transition period, with further communication forthcoming.
 - Syllabi Initiative
 - FAU recognized as a leader in implementing public syllabi compliance across the State University System.
 - Acknowledgement of contributions from Dr. Kim Dunn.
 - Enrollment Update
 - Record number of applicants (approximately 58,860).
 - 10% increase in completed applications year-over-year.
 - Strong academic profile of incoming class (average GPA ~3.98, high test scores).
 - Admissions cycle extended to increase yield.
 - Sociology Program Discussion
 - Ongoing discussions at the Board of Governors level regarding general education curriculum changes.
 - Coordination with faculty leadership and department representatives to prepare contingency plans.
 - Emphasis on maintaining faculty involvement in decision-making.
 - System Engagement
 - Visit from State University System leadership (Vice Chancellor).
 - Productive discussion with Steering Committee members regarding institutional priorities and challenges.
 - Upcoming Meetings
 - Board of Governors meeting to be held at University of West Florida.
 - FAU will host a Board of Governors visit in June.
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](#)

Arts and Letters

1. BA in Languages, Linguistics & Comparative Literature (Program Change – Honors in the Major)

Motion: A motion was made to move forward with a positive recommendation.

Motion carries.

2. Public Management Minor (Program Change) + Certificate Addition

Motion: A motion was made to move forward with a positive recommendation.

Motion carries.

3. Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence with Public Management

Motion: A motion was made to refer the proposal to the Academic Planning and Budget Committee (APBC) for further review.

Motion carries.

Business

1. Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence with Economics (New Program – Business/Engineering)

Motion: A motion was made to refer the proposal to the Academic Planning and Budget Committee (APBC) for further analysis of impact and cost.

Motion carries.

Education

1. Bachelor of Early Care and Education (Program Change – Education)

Motion: A motion was made to move forward with a positive recommendation.

Motion carries.

2. Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence with Education (New Program – Education)

Motion: A motion was made to refer the proposal to the Academic Planning and Budget Committee (APBC) for further analysis of impact and cost.

Motion carries.

Engineering and Computer Science

1. Introduction to Computational Neuroscience (BME 4712C) (New Course – Engineering and Computer Science)

Motion: A motion was made to move forward with no recommendation.

Motion carries.

2. Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence with Cybersecurity (New Program – Engineering and Computer Science)

Motion: A motion was made to postpone until next meetin.

Motion carries.

3. Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence with Public Management (New Program – Interdisciplinary)

Motion: A motion was made to refer the proposal to the Academic Planning and Budget Committee (APBC) for further review.

Motion carries.

Honors College

2. Data Science and Analytics Concentration (Program Change – Honors College)

Motion: A motion was made to move forward with a positive recommendation.

Motion carries.

Science

1. AI for Science (IDS 3763) (New Course – Science)

Motion: A motion was made to move forward with a positive recommendation with revision of title to “applications” of AI in science.

Motion carries.

2. Bachelor of Arts in Health Science (Program Change – Science)

Motion: A motion was made to move forward with a positive recommendation.

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](#)

1. Combined Degree Program (Engineering – Multiple Pathways)

Motion: A motion was made to postpone the item until the next meeting pending revisions.

Motion carries.

2. College of Business Program Changes (Bundled Items)

Motion: A motion was made to approve the bundled items with a positive recommendation.

Motion carries.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

None.

13. Good of the Steering Committee

Dr. Trapani concluded with brief remarks highlighting positive community impact and appreciation for ongoing engagement.

14. Meeting adjourned at 3:41 pm.