



**Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes
September 25, 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 [August 28, 2025](#), were **approved by the committee.**
3. President's Report
Dr. Trapani's Report Highlights:
 - Recognition of the university's many accomplishments was shared, along with acknowledgment of recent tragedies affecting the community, including the death of Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University. A formal discussion on this topic will occur later in the meeting.
 - Updates on university initiatives and governance:
 - The Board of Trustees retreat is scheduled for October 6; some administration members will be absent from the Senate on that day.
 - Several proposed Board of Governors regulations have comment windows closing tonight; attendees were encouraged to review and submit comments.
 - The Tech Runway project has been realigned with the College of Business, emphasizing entrepreneurship as a key area of distinction.
 - Ongoing efforts with the Board of Governors aim to establish a new accreditation body, incorporating faculty input and addressing prior concerns from multiple state university systems.
 - ACFS is working to improve faculty involvement in regulations before and during the drafting process.
4. Guest Speakers

- Adam Hasner, FAU President
 - Celebrated recent achievements:
 - Top 100 public university (US News & World Report)
 - #30 in social mobility
 - Only 21 universities with both R1 and Carnegie Opportunity University designation
 - Most academically competitive incoming class
 - Record-breaking giving day with increased faculty/staff participation
 - Addressed ongoing faculty concerns regarding investigations; emphasized fairness, process, and campus safety.
 - Key priorities outlined:
 - Student recruitment – attract high-achieving students
 - Student performance – focus on graduation rates and transfer student success
 - Student opportunity – internships and career pathways
 - Student experience – housing, engagement, and overall campus life
 - Research mission: continuing growth of R1 status, announcements forthcoming.
 - Reputation mission: enhancing public awareness of FAU's accomplishments; leadership change to promote FAU story.
 - Provost search: ongoing; final candidates to meet faculty, leadership, and community soon.
 - Strategic plan: initiating development of a new strategic plan with the Board of Trustees. Faculty and university stakeholders will have ample opportunity to contribute.
 - Sandra Marin Ruiz, Regional Director of the Florida Apex Accelerator and Florida SBDC: [APLU Innovation and Economic Prosperity survey](#)
 - Introduced the Innovation and Economic Prosperity designation, highlighting the university's impact on community development through entrepreneurship, innovation, partnerships, talent, and workforce initiatives.
 - Shared that data collection for the designation will also support faculty and student grant applications by demonstrating community impact.
 - Requested support for an upcoming survey distributed to faculty, students, and external stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of completing and promoting the survey through academic and public networks.
5. Open Forum with the Provost
- Provost Ivy reported on the following:
- Giving Day Highlights
 - The campaign exceeded its goal.

- Strong faculty and staff participation, including contributions via payroll deductions.
 - Provost acknowledged faculty and staff support for the campaign.
- [Regulation 8.03](#) (Syllabus Posting and Changes)
 - Proposed revisions shared, period for public comment closes tonight.
 - Key change: Detailed assignments no longer required in syllabi.
 - Syllabi must be posted 45 days in advance and stored for five years.
 - Supplemental readings are not considered “assigned” material and do not impact compliance.
 - Updates to syllabi during the semester must be reflected in the repository.
 - Guidance and new memos will follow the final approval at the November Board of Governors (BOG) meeting.
- Performance-Based Funding (PBF) Workshop – October 7
 - Provosts and CFOs invited to provide input on proposed final changes.
 - Focus on improving metrics for university performance and funding.
- Accreditation Updates (CPHG & HLC)
 - University selected as a pilot institution for the new CPHG accreditation.
 - Draft standards are smaller and comparable to HLC; focus on clarity and alignment.
 - Crosswalk to be provided to map old standards to new CPHG requirements.
 - University continues reporting to HLC to maintain accreditation during transition.
 - This semester: letter of intent and initial application to CPHG being prepared.
- Space Optimization Process
 - Three-year initiative underway to optimize campus space usage.
 - First-year focus: data collection and planning with external consultant (NGT).
- International Affairs / H1B Visa Updates
 - H1B visa rules changing frequently; new applications involve additional fees.
 - Center for Global Engagement is primary point of contact for faculty and staff questions.
- Early Progress Reports / Student Success Initiatives
 - Broader reporting approach was implemented this year for early alerts.
 - Increased number of students evaluated compared to last year.
 - Slight decrease in submission rate is still effective for student support.
 - Professional staff outreach and college advising offices engaged to support students.
 - Students flagged as at-risk receive connections to tutoring, academic coaching, and financial aid.
 - Faculty recognized for participation with “Student Success Champion” acknowledgment.

- **Other Updates**
 - College of Nursing: Ribbon cutting for the new Christine E. Lynn Advanced Nursing Simulation Clinic at Boca Raton campus.
 - Upcoming university gala is scheduled for Saturday, March 28.
6. Committee Reports
- Kim Dunn, APB Chair, [Academic Planning and Budget Report](#)
 - Bylaws Revision
 - APB proposed slight revisions to the bylaws regarding its duties, specifically the last sentence of the responsibilities section.
 - No formal motion was recorded during the meeting regarding adoption of these revisions; consideration is expected when bylaws are acted upon later in the agenda.
 - Curriculum Items & APB Review

Committee recommends a process for items requiring APB review:

 - Curriculum items should be sent to APB at the same time as they are submitted to the relevant university curriculum committee.
 - Goal: Avoid bottlenecks and ensure timely review by Steering Committee.
 - College-level curriculum committees or Provost office to assist in routing items correctly.
 - Potential revision to curriculum submission form to indicate which items require APB review
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 bundle by college. **Motion carries.** Another motion was made. **Motion:** A motion was made to bundle academic items and terminations separately. **Motion carries.**
- University-Wide items. **Motion:** A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**
 - Arts and Letters. **Motion (academic items):** A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries. Motion (terminations)** A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**
 - Business. **Motion:** A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**

- Engineering and Computer Science. **Motion (academic items):** A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries. Motion (terminations)** A motion was made to move forward with 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 bundle by college. **Motion carries.**

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

11. Old Business

- Bylaws
 - Dr. Trapani noted that the bylaw revisions are the result of many years of work by committee members involving extensive review and discussion.
 - The revisions were formally submitted after the Steering Committee meeting and presented for consideration at this meeting.
 - Given the extensive nature of the revisions, Dr. Trapani moved to table the discussion to the next meeting.
 - **Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.**

12. New Business

- Resolution: [Joint Resolution of the UFS/UFF-FAU Reaffirming the Commitment to Free Expression and Civil Discourse](#)
 - Dr. Trapani reported on the joint resolution which reaffirms the University Faculty Senate and UFF-FAU's commitment to free expression and civil discourse.
 - Motion: A motion was made to move resolution forward with a positive recommendation. **Motion carries.**
- Resolution: [ACFS Resolution on Safeguarding Free Expression in the State University System of Florida](#)
 - Dr. Trapani also presented the ACFS resolution, which condemns the shooting of Charlie Kirk and emphasizes the need for faculty consultation in university system policy decisions, protection of shared governance, and the preservation of academic freedom.

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

13. Good of the Steering Committee

- Dr. Trapani announced that the Faculty Union will hold a town hall at 4:00 p.m. on “Know Your Rights,” connected to issues of free expression and civil discourse.

14. **Meeting adjourned at 3:51 pm.**