



**Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes
September 3, 2026
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Board of Trustees Room and ZOOM**

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

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 16, 2026](#), were **approved by the committee**.
3. President's Report
Dr. Trapani provided updates on the following:
 - **Welcome to the New Academic Year**
Dr. Trapani welcomed members to the new academic year and expressed appreciation to those involved in faculty governance, with special recognition to the Steering Committee, Taina Teran, Provost Dawson-Scully, and Academic Affairs for their continued support of faculty governance and university initiatives.
 - **Strategic Plan**
He noted that he has received questions regarding the Strategic Plan, particularly regarding metrics. He shared that the metrics will be developed throughout the academic year, primarily through designated work groups.
 - **Board of Trustees**
The Board of Trustees will hold a retreat on September 15.
 - **Board of Governors**
Dr. Trapani provided updates regarding recent Board of Governors regulatory changes, including:
 - A requirement for Boards of Trustees to establish Institutional Neutrality policies, with exemptions for governance committees and other specified areas. He expressed appreciation to Governor Kim Dunn for these exclusions.
 - A regulation allowing undergraduate degree programs with fewer than 120 credit hours, which has generated considerable discussion and concern. More to come.
 - A regulation addressing the use of AI in the classroom, including requirements related to faculty disclosure of AI use and guidance regarding student use of AI. FAU was noted as a model, as the University already has guidance addressing student use of AI.

- **AI Working Group**
He provided an update on the AI Working Group, which met over the summer. The group developed provisional governance guidance for curricular committees and suggestions regarding the University's overall AI profile.
4. Guest Speakers
None.
 5. Open Forum with the Provost
Provost Ken Dawson-Scully was unable to attend the meeting due to a Board of Governors meeting. Dr. Steve Engle, Vice Provost, attended on his behalf and provided updates on the following:
 - Academic Success
 - Student enrollment, including first-generation student enrollment
 - AI Governance Task Force
 - Freshman Convocation
 - Transfer student enrollment
 - Two department name changes
 - College of Science: Department of Exercise Science & Health Promotion to Department of Exercise and Health Sciences.
 - College of Medicine: Department of Population Health to Department of Preventive Medicine and Health Sciences.
 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](#)
 1. Arts and Letters
Science Fiction and Fantasy Studies Minor and Certificate
Motion: A motion was made to move forward with a positive recommendation by steering.
Motion carries.
 - Bachelor of Music Education**
Motion: A motion was made to move forward with a positive recommendation by steering.
Motion carries.
 - Dramatic Writing Minor**
Motion: A motion was made to move forward with a positive recommendation by steering.
Motion carries.

2. Engineering and Computer Science

BSCE (Computer Engineering) with MS (Electrical Engineering or Computer Science) AND BACS (Computer Science) with MS (Data Science and Analytics or Artificial Intelligence)

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

Motion carries.

3. Honors College

Motion: A motion was made to bundle **Anthropology Concentration** and **Minor and Biological Anthropology Concentration**. **Motion carries.**

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

Motion carries.

French and Francophone Studies Minor

Motion: A motion was made to move forward 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](#)

Education: Program change: Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction

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

Motion carries.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

- The committee discussed the possibility of an ad hoc review regarding enrollment in physics programs and STEM enrollment.
- It was noted that enrollment in physics programs has declined, with Computer Science identified as an exception. The committee discussed looking further into the enrollment data and considering what the University is doing strategically in response.
- Dan Meeroff, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, will obtain the relevant data and provide it to the Steering Committee.

13. Good of the Steering Committee

None.

14. **Meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.**