



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee Meeting

May 21, 2026
3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Barnett Applied Research Center (BARC) Room 2200 and
Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Dial in: 1-863-225-2351 | Conference ID: 350 315 041#

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Sidney Theis, Chair
Dr. Derek Henderson

Patrick Hagen, Vice Chair
Colby Manrodt

Sumanth Neelam
Dr. Christie Bassett

MEETING AGENDA

- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| I. | Call to Order | Dr. Sidney Theis,
Chair |
| II. | Roll Call | Kristen Wharton,
Corporate Secretary |
| III. | Public Comment | Dr. Sidney Theis |
| IV. | Approval of the February 6, 2026, Meeting Minutes
Action Required | Dr. Sidney Theis |
| V. | 2024-2026 Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee Work Plan Review | Dr. Sidney Theis |
| VI. | 2027-28 General Education Course List
Action Required | Dr. Brad Thiessen, Vice
President and Provost |
| VII. | New Academic Degree Programs for Consideration | Dr. Brad Thiessen |
| VIII. | Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications Report | Bryan Brooks
Vice President |
| IX. | Closing Remarks and Adjournment | Dr. Sidney Theis |



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee **DRAFT** Meeting Minutes

**February 6, 2026
11:15 A – 12:00 P**

Florida Polytechnic University
Virtual via Microsoft Teams

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Sidney Theis called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 11:16 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Kristen Wharton called the roll: Committee Chair Sidney Theis, Vice Chair Patrick Hagen, Trustee Sumanth Neelam, Trustee Christie Bassett, and Trustee Edwar Romero-Ramirez were present (Quorum)

Committee members not present: Trustee Colby Manrodt

Other Trustees Present: Board Chair Beth Kigel, Trustee Jeff Beelaert, Trustee Rob Kincart, Trustee Ilya Shapiro

Staff Present: Provost Brad Thiessen, Dr. Tanner McKnight, Bryan Brooks, David Blanton, Cole Allen, Kelli Stargel, Joshua Millikin, Dr. Tom Dvorske, Dr. Jon Pawlecki, Kevin Calkins, and Kristen Wharton

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Approval of September 18, 2025, Minutes

Trustee Patrick Hagen motioned to approve the Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee meeting minutes of September 18, 2025. Trustee Sumanth Neelam seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. 2024-2026 Academic and Student Affairs Committee Work Plan

Committee Chair Theis reviewed the Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success (AERSS) Committee Work Plan. There were no questions about the Work Plan.

VI. Academic Enterprise and Research Report

Dr. Brad Thiessen, Vice President and Provost, presented data on earned grades at Florida Poly. He reported no evidence of grade inflation but has asked Board of Governors staff to review

comparable data from other SUS institutions to confirm this finding.

He also shared early indicators of improvement in the University's Academic Progress Rate (APR). Replacing the FLAME course with "introduction to major" courses has increased student engagement and satisfaction. However, the projected APR for 2025-26 is currently 74%. The University is working closely with students who have one or more D, F, or W grades (DFWs). There is still time during the spring term to improve these grades, with additional support planned for the summer.

Provost Thiessen also reported that the University is analyzing admissions data to better identify students who may struggle academically and to strengthen preparation for Florida Poly's rigorous curriculum.

He updated the Committee on newly awarded faculty research grants and shared that twenty-three faculty members will be hired for fall 2026, including ten new positions. Additionally, 17 faculty members are up for reappointment and/or promotion this spring.

Comprehensive curriculum revisions are underway across all academic programs. Faculty have been asked to take ownership of the curriculum and benchmark against aspirational peer institutions. The Provost encouraged freeing up elective credits to provide greater flexibility for transfer students and to allow four-year students to pursue certificates or minors. These efforts support the University's goal of offering three-year degree pathways and four-year combined bachelor's and master's degree programs.

Finally, Provost Thiessen noted that Florida Poly's preliminary peer review was submitted to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) on January 16. The University remains on track to complete accreditation by spring 2027.

Trustee Sumanth Neelam commended the Provost for the positive report and asked whether measurable improvements in retention have been observed since identifying root causes. Provost Thiessen responded that, compared to last year, the University can now identify struggling students earlier and provide targeted support to help them succeed.

VII. National Robotics Engineering Center (NREC) Tour Report

Committee Chair Theis reported on the recent visit to the National Robotics Engineering Center (NREC) in Pittsburgh. Attendees included Committee Chair Theis; Dr. Devin Stephenson, President; Dr. Brad Thiessen, Vice President, and Provost; Dr. Tanner McKnight, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Cole Allen, Vice President and Chief Information Officer; and Steve Scuggs, President of the Lakeland Economic Development Council (LEDC).

NREC is part of the Carnegie Mellon University Robotics Institute. Chair Theis highlighted the industries supported by NREC, many of which align with Florida Poly's academic programs and Strategic Plan. Provost Thiessen noted that the model appears scalable and adaptable to Florida Poly.

Additional information will be shared with trustees in the coming weeks. Trustees engaged in discussion and expressed enthusiasm about the potential opportunities.

VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kristen J. Wharton
Corporate Secretary

**Florida Polytechnic University
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
Board of Trustees
May 21, 2026**

Subject: 2024-2026 Academic and Student Affairs Committee Work Plan

Proposed Committee Action

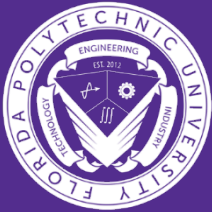
Review only. No action required.

Background Information

Committee Chair Sid Theis will review the Committee's 2024-2026 Work Plan.

Supporting Documentation: Academic and Student Affairs Committee Work Plan 2024-2026

Prepared by: Dr. Brad Thiessen, Vice President and Provost, Academic Affairs



Committee Work Plan

Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee Work Plan 2024-2026

ITEMS TO REVIEW AS NEEDED

- Academic Affairs
 - Academic program updates, additions, terminations (*BOG Reg 8.012*)
 - Institutional and programmatic accreditation activity
 - Faculty hiring and activities
 - Research and industry partnerships
 - Student success
- Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
 - Admissions and Financial Aid
 - Student demographics
 - Student Affairs
 - Student Success

SEPTEMBER

- Academic & Student Affairs Committee Charter (*review and approve in even-numbered years*)
- Civil Discourse: Review of student orientation programming and student code of conduct
- Textbook & Instructional Materials Report (*BOG Reg 8.003 – due Sept. 30; review and approve*)
- Renewal of Out of State Fee Waiver (*last approved Sept. 2022 for Fall 2023-2026 incoming cohorts*)
- Sponsored Research Certification Report (*BOG Reg 10.002 - due Oct. 1; review*)
- Foreign Influence Annual Report (*BOG Reg 9.012 – due Sept. 30; review*)

NOVEMBER

FEBRUARY

- CITF Increase, Inc. to Existing Fees or New Fees (*review and approve only if changes are proposed*)
- Academic Calendar (AY+1 and AY+2) (*BOG Reg 8.001; review– due Mar. 1*)

APRIL

- University Accountability Plan (*BOG Reg 2.002; review and approve*)
- List of new academic degree programs for consideration (*BOG Reg 8.011; review as needed*)
- Alternative Admission Student Success (*BOG Reg 6.002; review and approve*)

JUNE

- General Education Courses (*BOG Reg 8.005 – due Sept. 1; review and approve*)

Florida Polytechnic University
Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee
Board of Trustees
May 22, 2026

Subject: General Education Courses for 2027-28

Proposed Committee Action

Recommend to the Board of Trustees approval of Florida Polytechnic University's 2027-28 General Education Course List.

Background Information

Board of Governors Regulation 8.005 calls for each university's Board of Trustees and President to annual review and approve the courses that fulfill general education requirements. This list, if approved, will be submitted to the state's Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) by September 1. The ACC will then submit the list of courses to the Board of Governors by December 1, with the Board of Governors approving or rejecting the list of courses using criteria established in section 1007.55, Florida Statutes.

The criteria established in Florida Statute 1007.55 are as follows:

(1) The Legislature finds it necessary to ensure that every undergraduate student of a Florida public postsecondary educational institution graduates as an informed citizen through participation in rigorous general education courses that promote and preserve the constitutional republic through traditional, historically accurate, and high-quality coursework. General education courses should provide broad foundational knowledge to help students develop intellectual skills and habits that enable them to become more effective and lifelong learners. Courses with a curriculum based on unproven, speculative, or exploratory content are best suited as elective or specific program prerequisite credit, not general education credit. General education courses must:

- (a) Meet the course standards as provided in s. 1007.25; and*
- (b) Whenever applicable, provide instruction on the historical background and philosophical foundation of Western civilization and this nation's historical documents, such as the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, and the Federalist Papers.*

The course standards articulated in Florida Statute 1007.25 include:

(3)(b) Each general education core course option must contain high-level academic and critical thinking skills and common competencies that students must demonstrate to successfully complete the course.

(3)(c) General education core courses may not distort significant historical events or include a curriculum that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.

With the launch of our Biomedical Sciences program and redesign of curricula across all our programs, Florida Poly is proposing to add 9 new general education courses (and 5 associated labs) for 2027-28: Business Calculus, Creative Writing Workshop, Introduction to the Novel, Civil Discourse and the American Political Order, Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry 2, Organic Chemistry 1, and Organic Chemistry 2.

Supporting Documentation: 2027-28 General Education Course List

Prepared by: Dr. Brad Thiessen, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

**Statewide Course Numbering System
General Education Course Report**

Prefix	Level	Course Number	Lab	Course Title	Credit	General Ed Core Discipline Area	General Ed Discipline Area
AMH	1	010		AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1877	3	Social Sciences	Social Sciences
AMH	2	020		AMERICAN HISTORY SINCE 1877	3	Social Sciences	Social Sciences
ARH	2	000		ART APPRECIATION	3	Humanities	Humanities
BSC	2	010		BIOLOGY 1	3	Natural Science	Natural Science
BSC	2	010	L	BIOLOGY 1 LABORATORY	1		Natural Science
CHM	2	045		CHEMISTRY 1	3	Natural Science	Natural Science
CHM	2	045	L	CHEMISTRY 1 LABORATORY	1		Natural Science
ECO	2	013		PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS	3	Social Sciences	Social Sciences
ECO	2	023		PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS	3		Social Sciences
ENC	1	101		ENGLISH COMPOSITION 1: EXPOSITORY AND ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING	3	Communications	Communications
ENC	2	210		TECHNICAL WRITING	3		Communications
EVR	1	001		ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	3	Natural Science	Natural Science
EVR	1	001	L	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE LAB	1		Natural Science
HUM	2	020		INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITIES	3	Humanities	Humanities
IDS	2	144		LEGAL, ETHICAL, AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN TECHNOLOGY	3		Humanities
LIT	2	000		INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE	3	Humanities	Humanities
MAC	1	147		PRE-CALCULUS ALGEBRA AND TRIGONOMETRY	4		Math
MAC	2	311		ANALYTICAL GEOMETRY AND CALCULUS 1	4	Math	Math
MAC	2	312		ANALYTICAL GEOMETRY AND CALCULUS 2	4	Math	Math
MAC	2	313		ANALYTICAL GEOMETRY & CALCULUS 3	4		Math
MAD	2	104		DISCRETE MATHEMATICS	3		Math
MAP	2	302		DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS	3		Math
MUL	2	010		MUSIC APPRECIATION	3	Humanities	Humanities
PHI	2	010		INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	3	Humanities	Humanities
PHY	2	048		PHYSICS 1 WITH CALCULUS	3	Natural Science	Natural Science
PHY	2	048	L	PHYSICS 1 WITH CALCULUS LABORATORY	1		Natural Science
PHY	2	049		PHYSICS 2 WITH CALCULUS	3	Natural Science	Natural Science
PHY	2	049	L	PHYSICS 2 WITH CALCULUS LABORATORY	1		Natural Science
PHY	2	053		ALGEBRA BASED PHYSICS 1	3	Natural Science	Natural Science
PHY	2	053	L	ALGEBRA BASED PHYSICS 1 LABORATORY	1		Natural Science
POS	2	041		AMERICAN GOVERNMENT	3	Social Sciences	Social Sciences
PSY	2	012		GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY	3	Social Sciences	Social Sciences
STA	2	023		STATISTICS 1	3	Math	Math
ENC	1	102		ENGLISH COMPOSITION 2: RHETORIC AND ACADEMIC RESEARCH	3	Communications	Communications
MAC	2	233		BUSINESS CALCULUS			Math
CRW	2	000		CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP	3		Humanities
LIT	2	012		INTRODUCTION TO THE NOVEL	3		Humanities
AMS	2	010		CIVIL DISCOURSE AND THE AMERICAN POLITICAL ORDER	3	Social Sciences	Social Sciences

**Statewide Course Numbering System
General Education Course Report**

APK	2	100		ANATOMY	3		Natural Science
APK	2	100	L	ANATOMY LAB	1		Natural Science
APK	2	105		PHYSIOLOGY	3		Natural Science
APK	2	105	L	PHYSIOLOGY LAB	1		Natural Science
CHM	2	046		CHEMISTRY 2	3	Natural Science	Natural Science
CHM	2	046	L	CHEMISTRY 2 LAB	1		Natural Science
CHM	2	210		ORGANIC CHEMISTRY 1	3		Natural Science
CHM	2	210	L	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY 1 LAB	2		Natural Science
CHM	2	210		ORGANIC CHEMISTRY 2	3		Natural Science
CHM	2	210	L	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY 2 LAB	2		Natural Science

**Florida Polytechnic University
Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee
Board of Trustees
May 21, 2026**

Subject: New Academic Degree Programs for Consideration

Proposed Committee Action

Information only – no action required.

Background Information

Board of Governors Regulation 8.011 calls for the Board of Trustees (BOT) to annually review a list of new academic degree programs the university wishes to implement in the upcoming academic year. The list approved last year by the BOT led to the launch of our new Aerospace Engineering and Biomedical Sciences programs.

Note that it is a list of degree programs that may be considered by the Board of Trustees in 2026-27; it is not a list of degree programs that will be offered in 2026-27. To offer a new degree program, we will need to submit a pre-proposal for review by the SUS academic program coordination workgroup and a proposal for approval by the Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees.

Supporting Documentation: Anticipated New Academic Programs for the 2026-27 Academic Year

Prepared by: Dr. Brad Thiessen, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs



Instructions:

Please use the table below to report the new academic degree program proposals the university plans to submit to the Board of Governors' office in the 2026-2027 Academic Year. Your institution's board of trustees must have reviewed this list prior to submission to the Board office. Please submit the completed table via the Information Request System by **June 30, 2026**.

*If a program was on a previous list that was submitted to the board of trustees, but the program proposal was not submitted to the Board office, please include the program on this list and indicate the appropriate date it was submitted to the board of trustees.

Anticipated New Academic Programs for the 2026-27 Academic Year

CIP Code	Name	Level	Hours to Degree	Other SUS Institutions that Offer the Program	Projected Student Enrollment for Year 1	Date Submitted to the University Board of Trustees
14.0101	Interdisciplinary Engineering	BS	120	FIU, USF	25	05/22/2026
14.0201	Aerospace and Space Engineering	BS	120 or 30	BS: UCF, UF	60	05/22/2026
14.0804	Transportation and Highway Engineering	BS	120	(none)	20	05/22/2026
14.0903	Software Engineering	BS	120	FGCU	25	05/22/2026
14.3301	Construction Science & Engineering	BS	120	UF	20	05/22/2026
23.1303	Scientific and Technical Communication	BS or MS	120 or 30	BS: USF MS: (none)	15	05/22/2026
11.0102	Artificial Intelligence & Robotics	MS	30	FAU, UCF, UF	20	05/22/2026
14.0801	Civil & Environmental Engineering	MS	30	FAMU, FAU, FGCU, FIU, FSU, UCF, UF, UNF, USF	20	05/22/2026
14.3601	Advanced Manufacturing	Doctoral	TBD	(none)	10	05/22/2026
11.0103	Information Technology	Reduced Credit	90	Reduced credit: (none) BS: FAMU, FAU, FSU, UCF, UNF, USF, UWF	40	05/22/2026

11.0804	Modeling, Simulation, and Digital Twins	Reduced Credit	90	(none)	25	05/22/2026
14.4201	Mechatronics, Robotics, and Autonomous Systems	Reduced Credit	90	Reduced credit: (none) BS: (none)	25	05/22/2026
15.0000	Engineering Technology	Reduced Credit	90	Reduced credit: (none) BS: UWF	20	05/22/2026
15.1001	Construction Management	Reduced Credit	90	Reduced credit: (none) BS: UWF, FGCU	40	05/22/2026
52.2001	Construction Engineering Technology	Reduced Credit	90	Reduced credit: (none) BS: FAMU, FGCU, FIU, UF, UNF, UWF	25	05/22/2026

Signature of Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date

**Florida Polytechnic University
Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee
Board of Trustees
May 21, 2026**

Subject: Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications Report

Proposed Committee Action

Information only – no action required.

Background Information

Bryan Brooks, VP for Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications will give a brief update on activities and initiatives that reflect Florida Poly’s strategic priorities for student affairs, enrollment management, and strategic communications.

Items discussed will include a review of the coaches who have been hired for Florida Poly’s NAIA athletic program and anticipated enrollment projections for Fall 2026.

Supporting Documentation: N/A

Prepared by: Bryan Brooks, VP for Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications