



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda

**May 22, 2026
10:45 AM – 12:15 PM**

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

Dial in: 1-863-225-2351 | Conference ID: 397 954 778#

BOARD MEMBERS

Beth Kigel, Chair
Dr. Sidney Theis
Eliot Peace
Rob Kincart
Jeff Beelaert

Jesse Panuccio, Vice Chair
Ilya Shapiro
Sam Neelam
Jack Harrell, III

Patrick Hagen
Colby Manrodt
Dr. Derek Henderson
Dr. Christie Bassett

MEETING AGENDA

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| I. | Call to Order | Beth Kigel, Chair |
| II. | Roll Call | Kristen Wharton
Corporate Secretary |
| III. | Public Comment | Beth Kigel |
| IV. | Chair Remarks | Beth Kigel |
| V. | President's Remarks | Dr. Devin Stephenson
President |
| VI. | Faculty Senate President's Report | Trustee Derek Henderson |
| VII. | Student Government Association President's Report | Trustee Colby Manrodt

Beth Kigel |
| VIII. | Consent Agenda
Action Required
A. Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee
1. Approve the 2027-28 General Education Course List | |

- B. Governance, Audit, and Compliance Committee
 - 1. Approve the Audit Plan Change
 - 2. Approve the President’s Goals FY27
- C. Finance and Facilities Committee
 - 1. Approve the Recommendation of Housing Partner
 - 2. Approve the Recommended Construction Manager Team for Student Achievement Center
 - 3. Approve the Student Achievement Center - Construction Manager at Risk
 - 4. Approve the Budget Increase Request for Gary C. Wendt Engineering Center 2nd Floor Project
 - 5. Approve the University Foundation Board Appointments and Reappointments
 - 6. Approve the Foundation’s Planned Uses of University Personnel and Property (FY+1)
- D. Board of Trustees
 - 1. Approve the Board of Trustees Meeting minutes from February 13, 2026
 - 2. Approve the Board of Trustees Meeting minutes from March 4, 2026

IX. Committee Reports

- A. Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success (AERSS) Committee Trustee Sid Theis
- B. Finance and Facilities Committee Trustee Jesse Panuccio
- C. Strategic Initiatives and External Relations Committee Chair Beth Kigel
- D. Governance, Audit, and Compliance Committee Trustee Ilya Shapiro

- X. [Officer Elections](#) Trustee Ilya Shapiro
Action Required

- XI. [Out of State Fee Increase](#) Dr. Brad Thiessen
Action Required Vice President and Provost

- XII. [2025-2030 Strategic Plan Progress Report](#) Bryan Brooks, Vice President, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications

- XIII. [Legislative Session Report](#) Kelly Stargel, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, Development, and External Relations

- XIV. [Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar](#) Beth Kigel
- XV. [Board of Governors Meeting Calendar](#) Beth Kigel
- XVI. Closing Remarks & Adjournment Beth Kigel

**Florida Polytechnic University
Board of Trustees
May 22, 2026**

Subject: Consent Agenda

Proposed Board Action

Approve the consent agenda.

Each of the following items comes before the Board with unanimous approval from the respective Committees, and, as such, there is no need for a second.

- A. Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee
 - 1. Approve the 2027-28 General Education Course List
- B. Governance, Audit, and Compliance Committee
 - 1. Approve the Audit Plan Change
 - 2. Approve the President's Goals FY27
- C. Finance and Facilities Committee
 - 1. Approve the Recommendation of Housing Partner
 - 2. Approve the Recommended Construction Manager Team for Student Achievement Center
 - 3. Approve the Student Achievement Center - Construction Manager at Risk
 - 4. Approve the Budget Increase Request for Gary C. Wendt Engineering Center 2nd Floor Project
 - 5. Approve the University Foundation Board Appointments and Reappointments
 - 6. Approve the Foundation's Planned Uses of University Personnel and Property (FY+1)
- D. Board of Trustees
 - 1. Approve the Board of Trustees Meeting minutes from February 13, 2026
 - 2. Approve the Board of Trustees Meeting minutes from March 4, 2026

Background Information

For additional information about any of the items listed above, please refer to that committee's meeting materials.

Supporting Documentation:

- 1. Board of Trustees Meeting minutes from February 13, 2026
- 2. Board of Trustees Meeting minutes from March 4, 2026

Prepared by: Kristen Wharton, Corporate Secretary and Special Assistant to the President



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board of Trustees **DRAFT** Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2026
10:00 A – 1:00 P

Florida Polytechnic University
Barnett Applied Research Center (BARC)
and Virtual via Microsoft Teams

I. Call to Order

Chair Beth Kigel called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

The Chair welcomed four new trustees—Dr. Christie Bassett, Jeff Beelaert, Rob Kincart, and Jack Harrell, III—each of whom briefly introduced themselves, sharing highlights of their background, family, and career.

II. Roll Call

Kristen Wharton called the roll: Chair Beth Kigel, Vice Chair Jesse Panuccio, Trustee Patrick Hagen, Trustee Jack Harrell, III, Trustee Eliot Peace, Trustee Sumanth Neelam, Trustee Colby Manrodt, Trustee Edwar Romero, Trustee Ilya Shapiro, Trustee Rob Kincart and Trustee Sid Theis were present (Quorum).

Trustees not present: N/A

Staff Present: President Devin Stephenson, Provost Brad Thiessen, Bryan Brooks, Dr. Tanner McKnight, Kelli Stargel, Joshua Millikin, Kristen Wharton, and David Blanton

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. 2024-2026 Board of Trustees Work Plan

Chair Kigel reviewed the Board's Work Plan. There were no questions about the Work Plan.

V. Chair's Remarks

Chair Beth Kigel delivered her remarks, highlighting the ribbon cutting of the new Esports arena in the Barnett Applied Research Center and its expected impact on student life. She emphasized the 25|30 Strategic Plan as the University's guiding framework, encouraged trustees to review it, and requested that staff align all Board presentations with the Plan. Chair Kigel also announced that trustees will receive quarterly updates on the Plan via email prior to committee meetings. Additionally, she thanked those participating in Florida Poly Day at the Capitol next week.

VI. President's Remarks

President Devin Stephenson recapped his activities since the November Board meeting.

In December, the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Skyway Organization, an advanced materials and aerospace technology leader that will be locating operations in Polk County. The partnership was facilitated by Alex Kelly and supports the University's role in advancing high-demand, technology-driven industries in the region.

President Stephenson also highlighted Counselor's Day, which brought 170 high school advising counselors from across Florida to campus for an immersive experience—the largest event of its kind hosted by the University. As influencers in students' college decisions, these counselors play a key role in guiding prospective students to the institution.

In early December, President Stephenson met with James Hartzell, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. Discussions focused on aligning the University's academic programs to better serve military-connected veterans and their dependents, as well as exploring opportunities through expanded online offerings and career-readiness initiatives.

In January, President Stephenson visited Florida Trend, which expressed interest in the University's impact on workforce development across the state. The publication continues to be a dedicated supporter of the University.

Additionally, the President reported on his visit to the National Robotics Engineering Center (NREC) at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. NREC is exploring the establishment of several satellite locations nationwide and has invited the University to become an affiliate, with the potential to bring NREC operations to Lakeland. A white paper with further details will be provided to the Board for review.

President Devin Stephenson also reported on his meeting with Mark Wilson, President of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, to discuss issues impacting the state's business climate and workforce needs.

In addition, President Stephenson traveled to Washington, D.C. with Bryan Brooks, Vice President for Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications, where they met with members of the University's congressional delegation to discuss federal priorities including artificial intelligence, and advocate for institutional initiatives.

VII. Campus Safety and Security

University Chief of Police Aaron Murray reported that the Police Department will be fully staffed by the end of March, and reaccreditation is on schedule for April. External assessors are scheduled to visit campus, and he expressed confidence in a successful outcome.

Chief Murray outlined plans to align departmental initiatives with the University's Strategic Plan, emphasizing innovation. He announced the launch of the University's first drone unit, noting support from local law enforcement partners and strong student interest, including engagement with the Rotaract Club. Drone operators will obtain Federal Aviation Administration Part 107 certification, and the department plans to coordinate airspace management with SunTrax.

In anticipation of institutional growth, Chief Murray also proposed establishing the University's first canine unit to enhance safety and community engagement. He emphasized building a service-oriented, team-focused culture within the department, with the goal of setting a high standard for public safety in higher education.

In response to trustee questions, Chief Murray confirmed that a threat assessment team is in place and that a comprehensive security audit will be conducted. He also noted plans to partner closely with IT on cybersecurity efforts. President Devin Stephenson added that a recent \$2.9 million federal award will expand the University's security operations center to strengthen cybersecurity protections.

VIII. Faculty Senate President's Report

Trustee Edwar Romero reported on faculty and administrative efforts to strengthen shared governance, streamline curricula, and improve academic performance metrics. Faculty are revising programs and standardizing reappointment, promotion, and annual evaluation processes. He noted that anticipated enrollment growth will increase faculty service demands, particularly in undergraduate advising, and emphasized the importance of expanding graduate enrollment to support research and innovation.

IX. Student Government Association President's Report

Trustee Colby Manrodt, SGA President, reported a strong close to the Fall semester, with Reading Days serving over eight hundred students, and a successful start to Spring with a Pizza Pop-Up. In January, SGA joined fellow state universities in Tallahassee to advocate for a \$50 million increase in the performance-based funding cap, deferred maintenance funding, and an FSA advisor stipend. Recent campus efforts also included community events, Spirit Week, expanded off-campus trips, and the upcoming launch of "Coffee and Conversations" to enhance student engagement and communication.

X. Principles of Board Governance

Michael Pierce, outside Counsel to the University, presented an overview of board governance principles. He reviewed the structure and function of the State University System of Florida and the role of the Florida Board of Governors.

Pierce outlined the best practices of governance, emphasizing the distinction between governance and management. He noted that the Board's most direct influence on university management is the hiring and evaluation of the President. He also stated that accrediting bodies typically require periodic board assessments to ensure appropriate separation between governance and operational responsibilities.

He summarized the Board's scope of responsibilities, including oversight, advocacy, and fiduciary duties. Trustees were reminded of their responsibility for stewardship of public funds. Pierce reviewed key requirements under BOG Regulation 1.001, including presidential selection and review; oversight of administration, academic programs, and student affairs; personnel matters; fiscal management; and property and purchasing.

Finally, Pierce addressed legal considerations, including liability and risk exposure. He reminded trustees that they are subject to Florida's Code of Ethics, as well as confidentiality obligations

under FERPA and other privacy laws. He reviewed the broad application of Florida's Sunshine Law, noting that meetings between two or more trustees constitute a public meeting and must be properly noticed, open to the public, and documented with published minutes. Board-related documents, emails and texts are public records and may be requested at any time. He encouraged trustees to practice prudent email and text message hygiene and advised against conducting Board business via text messaging.

XI. Student Scholarship Recipients

Presidential Ambassadors Erica Kozak, Aidan Flynn, and Jorgeandres Alvarez addressed the Board, sharing about their academic journeys and the meaningful impact their scholarships have had on their educational experience. Each student, a senior expected to graduate in May, spoke about their academic growth and the opportunities afforded them at Florida Poly. Trustees engaged the ambassadors with several questions and expressed admiration for their professionalism and poise.

XII. Florida Poly's New Brand Marketing

Bryan Brooks, Vice President for Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications, provided updates on Student Affairs, as well as fall 2026 enrollment and housing projections.

He presented a new reputational awareness campaign, distinct from the University's enrollment marketing efforts, aimed at increasing visibility and strengthening perception among key stakeholders, including industry leaders, state legislators, corporate partners, major donors, and members of the Florida Board of Governors. As a young institution, the University faces an awareness gap, and the campaign is intended to clearly position it as *the* solution to Florida's workforce and economic needs.

Titled "*Different by Design: The STEM University of the Future*," the campaign emphasizes the University's unique role in serving the state. Brooks also outlined planned media placements across print, digital, podcast, billboard, theater, and airport platforms.

Vice Chair Jesse Panuccio expressed support for the campaign, and Chair Kigel commented positively on its momentum and potential impact.

XIII. University Foundation MOU and Bylaws

Stephen Weingard, Chief Development Officer and CEO, University Foundation, presented two items for review and consideration of approval.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Florida Polytechnic University and Florida Polytechnic University Foundation, Inc. defines their collaborative relationship in support of the University's mission, while maintaining separate governance and accountability. Originally revised on May 5, 2023, the MOU was updated and approved by the Foundation Board on January 23, 2026, reaffirming a shared commitment to this partnership. The MOU is required to be approved by the University Board.

A motion was made by Trustee Jack Harrell, III, to approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Florida Polytechnic University and its Direct Support

Organization (DSO), Florida Polytechnic University Foundation, Inc. Trustee Eliot Peace seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Weingard stated the Foundation Board completed its revisions of the existing Amended and Restated Foundation Bylaws. The revised Bylaws were approved by the Board of Directors on January 23, 2026, by way of resolution 2026-001.

A motion was made by Trustee Jack Harrell, III, to approve the revised Florida Polytechnic University Foundation, Inc. Bylaws. Trustee Sid Theis seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Consent Agenda

Chair Kigel brought forward the consent agenda for trustee approval.

A. Governance, Audit, and Compliance Committee

- 1. Approve Performance Based Funding (PBF) Audit and Data Integrity Certification**
- 2. Approve FPU-1.003 Use of University Facilities and Property (Amended)**
- 3. Approve FPU-1.007 Campus Free Expression (Amended)**
- 4. Approve FPU-5.003 Textbook and Instructional Materials Selection and Affordability (Amended)**

B. Board of Trustees

- 1. Approve Board of Trustees Meeting minutes from November 6, 2024**
- 2. Approve Board of Trustees Meeting minutes from November 30, 2024**

As each of the consent agenda items comes before the Board with unanimous approval from the respective Committees, there is no need for a second. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

XV. Committee Reports

A. Academic Enterprise, Research, and Student Success Committee Report

Trustee Theis, Committee Chair, stated that Dr. Brad Thiessen, Provost, shared updates on student and faculty successes, academic programs, and compliance matters. Committee Chair Theis also reported on a Pittsburgh visit to the National Robotics Engineering Center with Devin Stephenson, Steve Scruggs (Lakeland Economic Development Council), and Vice Presidents McKnight, Allen, and Thiessen.

B. Finance and Facilities Committee Report

Committee Chair Jesse Panuccio shared the Committee heard financial reports from VP Tanner McKnight who reported a strong second quarter, with a 6.4% year-over-year increase in net position, \$8.4 million in net revenues over expenses, expenses under budget, and healthy liquidity and reserve benchmarks.

An update on housing noted plans to meet enrollment growth through a public-private partnership to develop Phases 4 and 5, adding five hundred beds. Additional capital project updates were also given.

Advancement and Foundation updates were provided by Stephen Weingart.

The Committee also recommended, and the Board approved on today's consent agenda, a 15% increase in out-of-state tuition and fees and a \$2.5 million budget amendment to the Gary C. Wendt Engineering Center project, funded by carryforward reserves.

C. Governance, Audit, and Compliance Committee Report

Committee Chair Ilya Shapiro stated that David Blanton provided an update on external and internal audit and compliance activities and presented the Performance Based Funding Data Integrity Audit and related PBF Certification. The audit contained no reportable findings. Both items were included on today's consent agenda for approval. David also presented the Foundation audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, which resulted in a clean opinion with no internal control deficiencies or instances of noncompliance.

Joshua Millikin, Chief of Staff, reported on University employment practices as required by State law.

The Committee also discussed the nomination process for Chair and Vice Chair. No vote was taken; however, members expressed strong support for retaining the current Chair and Vice Chair.

XVI. Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar

Chair Kigel reviewed the upcoming Board calendar and noted the need to schedule a virtual meeting soon to address two agenda items that could not be covered today. Kristen Wharton will reach out to trustees to coordinate a date and time that accommodates everyone.

XVII. Board of Governors Meeting Calendar

Chair Kigel shared that the next Board of Governors meeting will be held January 29-30, 2025, at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

XVIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Kristen Wharton
Corporate Secretary



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board of Trustees **DRAFT** Meeting Minutes

**March 4, 2026
4:00 P – 5:00 P**

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

I. Call to Order

Chair Beth Kigel called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Kristen Wharton called the roll: Chair Beth Kigel, Vice Chair Jesse Panuccio, Trustee Patrick Hagen, Trustee Eliot Peace, Trustee Colby Manrodt, Trustee Edwar Romero, Trustee Ilya Shapiro, Trustee Jack Harrell, III, Trustee Rob Kincart and Trustee Sid Theis were present (Quorum).

Trustees not present: Trustee Sumanth Neelam

Staff Present: President Devin Stephenson, Provost Brad Thiessen, Dr. Cole Allen, Bryan Brooks, Dr. Tanner McKnight, Kelli Stargel, Kristen Wharton, David Blanton, and Joshua Millikin

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences Degree Program Proposal

Provost Brad Thiessen provided a brief history of the university's relationship with the Orlando College of Osteopathic Medicine (OCOM) and an overview of the proposed Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences. Developed in conjunction with OCOM, the program has already generated strong interest following the public announcement of the MOU, prompting Florida Poly to move forward. If approved, student recruitment will begin for enrollment this fall.

Thiessen outlined the student pathway and emphasized the program's alignment with Florida Poly's mission and the STEM+M concept introduced by President Devin Stephenson. The program is expected to attract students interested in life sciences, create opportunities for partnerships with other medical schools, and support external grant funding. Two faculty members have been hired to begin in the fall, and funding has been allocated for necessary labs and classrooms.

Trustee Sid Theis asked about risks. Provost Thiessen identified two: insufficient enrollment and uncertainty around student outcomes. Andy Oguntola, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, expressed confidence that enrollment targets will be met, citing strong interest. Provost Thiessen added that the program's unique curriculum supports positive outcomes.

In response to Trustee Rob Kincart, Provost Thiessen noted that OCOM views Florida Poly as a feeder institution due to its own limited capacity. The program offers an accelerated pathway that may reduce time to medical training by two years and can attract high-achieving students. Graduates may

pursue medical school, other health science programs, or careers in clinical research and biomedical device development. Accreditation is not currently in place but will be evaluated.

Trustee Ilya Shapiro asked about funding for faculty positions. Provost Thiessen confirmed the two faculty starting this fall are included in the FY27 budget, with future hires dependent on enrollment.

Trustee Rob Kincart motioned to approve Florida Polytechnic University’s proposal to launch the Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences degree program in Fall 2026. Trustee Sidney Theis seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Authorization to Form a Direct Support Organization (DSO) to Support the CMU/NREC Affiliate Initiative

President Devin Stephenson reminded trustees of his January visit to Carnegie Mellon’s National Robotics Engineering Center (NREC) in Pittsburgh, noting the strong alignment with Florida Poly’s mission. NREC is seeking to establish a southeastern U.S. presence and has expressed interest in affiliating with the University. He requested Board approval to form a direct support organization (DSO) to enable efficient operations while maintaining oversight.

Steve Scruggs, President of the Lakeland Economic Development Council (LEDC), emphasized the partnership’s importance to both Florida Poly and the Lakeland community, citing benefits such as support for Department of Defense and other projects, as well as the potential to attract companies from across the country and globally.

Dr. Cole Allen, Vice President and CIO, outlined a phased launch strategy, with the goal of achieving self-sufficiency within five years. The first-year priority is to accelerate the transition from sponsor interest to funded projects. Potential facility locations are currently under review.

Dr. Tanner McKnight, Vice President and CFO, explained that the DSO structure supports operational flexibility, with a projected four-year break-even. President Stephenson added that external funding sources have also been identified to support the launch. Chief of Staff Joshua Millikin clarified the scope of the current request for motion versus future approvals, and Dr. McKnight noted that a CPA firm is already assisting, with formation expected within a few weeks.

Trustee Eliot Peace motioned to authorize and direct the President to take all actions necessary to form a Florida not-for-profit corporation intended to operate as a Direct Support Organization (DSO) to support the University’s CMU/NREC affiliate initiative and return to the Board with proposed Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, proposed board slate, and required agreements for Board certification. Trustee Jack Harrell, III seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Kristen Wharton
Corporate Secretary

**Florida Polytechnic University
Board of Trustees
May 22, 2026**

Subject: Officer Elections

Proposed Board Action

1. Elect the Board of Trustees Chair for the term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028
2. Elect the Board of Trustees Vice-Chair for the term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028

Background Information

Pursuant to Section 4.2 of the Sixth Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees adopted June 3, 2025,

The Board shall elect the Chair and Vice-Chair from the appointed members of the Board at its last regular meeting prior to July 1 upon recommendation of the Governance Committee; the Chair and the Vice-Chair shall each serve for a two-year term to begin on July 1. The Chair and the Vice-Chair shall be eligible for reselection for one additional consecutive term by vote of the Board, after which they may not be an officer for two years before being eligible for selection again. There shall not be automatic succession by virtue of holding an office, except as otherwise provided in Section 4.3.

The Governance, Audit, and Compliance Committee, at its most recent meeting held May 22, 2026, _____ recommends the election of _____ as Board Chair and _____ as Board Vice Chair.

Supporting Documentation: N/A

Prepared by: Kristen Wharton, Corporate Secretary, University Board of Trustees

**Florida Polytechnic University
Board of Trustees
May 22, 2026**

Subject: Out-of-State Fee Increase

Proposed Board Action

Consider approval of and authorization for the increase of all out-of-state fees by 15%.

Background Information

1. Why is this issue before the Board of Trustees?

As stated in this excerpt from the [minutes of the June 18, 2025 Board of Governors meeting](#), Florida Polytechnic University was declared to be out of compliance with Florida Statute 1009.24(4)(b):

Nine of the universities are meeting that law, three are not and have not, thus making them in violation of the statute. [...] They are FAMU, New College, and Florida Poly. [...] Florida Poly is 17% undercharging [out-of-] state students.

2. What is the statutory requirement?

Florida Statute [1009.24\(4\)\(b\)](#):

*The Board of Governors may establish tuition for graduate and professional programs and out-of-state fees for all programs. Except as otherwise provided in this section, **the sum of tuition and out-of-state fees assessed to nonresident students must be sufficient to offset the full instructional cost of serving such students.***

3. What are the current tuition and out-of-state fees assessed to nonresident students?

Florida Poly currently charges the following tuition and out-of-state fees per credit hour:

	Tuition	OOS fee	Tuition + OOS fee	Total: Tuition & all fees
Undergraduate	\$105.07	\$510.00	\$615.07	\$700.15
Graduate	\$385.00	\$608.00	\$993.00	\$1,110.98
		(what we can raise)	(must offset cost)	

To meet statutory requirements, then, our full instructional costs must be less than:
 \$615.07 per credit hour for undergraduate students
 \$993.00 per credit hour for graduate students

4. What are our full instructional costs? How are they calculated?

Instructional costs include direct and indirect costs:

Direct: academic instruction & research (institutes/centers, infrastructure support organizations)

Indirect: academic support (academic administration, advising, financial aid, library)
 auxiliaries (food/housing, printing/copying/postal/telecommunications, athletics, parking)
 institutional support (general administration)
 plant operations & maintenance (physical plant, utilities, maintenance, custodial services)
 student services (student services administration, events/organizations, club sports)

For the 2023-24 academic year – the year referenced in that 2025 BOG meeting – Florida Poly was indeed undercharging out-of-state students by 17%. In other words, the tuition and out-of-state fee charged to nonresident students (\$615.07) would need to increase 17% (\$85.81) to cover the full cost of instruction (\$700.88 per credit hour):

Undergraduate Program	2023-24
(a) Headcount enrollment (Fall)	1,496
(b) Fundable student credit hours	42,144
(c) Full cost of instruction	\$29,538,022
(d) Full cost of instruction per student credit hour = (c) / (b)	\$700.88
(e) Nonresident tuition and OOS fee rate	\$615.07
Nonresident tuition over/(under) full instructional cost = (e) – (d)	(\$85.81)
% change to current OOS fee needed to offset full instructional cost	+16.8%

For that same 2023-24 academic year, Florida Poly was undercharging nonresident students by 29%:

Graduate Program	2023-24
(a) Headcount enrollment (Fall)	48
(b) Fundable student credit hours	920
(c) Full cost of instruction	\$1,074,940
(d) Full cost of instruction per student credit hour = (c) / (b)	\$1,168.41
(e) Nonresident tuition and OOS fee rate	\$993.00
Nonresident tuition over/(under) full instructional cost = (e) – (d)	(\$175.41)
% change to current OOS fee needed to offset full instructional cost	+28.9%

5. How do things look for 2026-27? Does our increased enrollment (which lowers our cost per student) offset increases in our instructional expenditures? Do we need to increase out-of-state fees to offset the full instructional cost for nonresident students?

Since 2023-24, two factors have influenced the full instructional cost per student:

- (1) Significant enrollment growth (which lowers the cost per student)
- (2) Increases to our operational expenses (which increases our full instructional cost)

While our enrollment growth has outpaced the increase in our operational expenditures, our current out-of-state fee still puts us out of compliance with Florida Statute 1009.24(4)(b). We need to increase our out-of-state fee.

2026-27 Projection	Undergraduate	Graduate
(a) Headcount enrollment (Fall)	2,060	140
(b) Fundable student credit hours	59,400	2753
(c) Full cost of instruction	\$38,600,000	\$3,000,000
(d) Full cost of instruction per student credit hour = (c) / (b)	\$649.83	\$1,089.72
(e) Nonresident tuition and OOS fee rate	\$615.07	\$993.00
Nonresident tuition over/(under) full instructional cost = (e) – (d)	(\$34.76)	(\$96.72)
% change to current OOS fee needed to offset full instructional cost	+6.8%	+15.9%

Assuming a headcount enrollment of 2,200 students (as established in our 2026 Accountability Plan) and no increase in our cost of instruction, we would meet statutory requirements by:

- Increasing the undergraduate out-of-state fee by **6.8%** (\$34.76 per credit hour)
- Increasing the graduate out-of-state fee by **15.9%** (\$96.72 per credit hour)

6. Are we able to increase the graduate out-of-state fee by 15.9%?

No. As stated in these excerpts from the [minutes of the June 18, 2025 Board of Governors meeting](#), we are only allowed to increase the out-of-state fee by 15% in any year:

- *Per statute, changes to tuition or the out-of-state fee may not exceed 15% in any year.*
- Motion approved: ... *universities be allowed to forego the current proposal process in BOG Regulation 7.001(6)(a) and by virtue of this motion, be permitted a two-phase increase of the out-of-state fee for undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs including the following conditions: that for students enrolled for fall 2025, out of state fee can be increased by up to 10%, for 2026 out of state fee can be increased by up to 15% and if institutions increase the amount of out-of-state students, they must also maintain the same percentage of admitted in-state students as it presently is in fall 2024.*

7. What is the administration’s recommendation?

We recommend the Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees approve and authorize:

- (a) a 15.0% (\$91.20 per credit hour) increase in the graduate out-of-state fee
- (b) at least a 6.8% (\$34.76) increase – and no more than a 15.0% (\$76.50) increase – in the undergraduate out-of-state fee

With our current enrollment projections, this 15% increase to our graduate out-of-state fee should meet statutory requirements by 2027-28.

For our undergraduate program, note that a 6.8% increase *just barely* puts us into compliance in 2026-27. If enrollment growth slows – or if instructional costs increase beyond our projections – then we would once again be out of compliance. We do not know when we would have our next opportunity to increase our out-of-state fee. For that reason, it may be better to increase the out-of-state fee beyond 6.8%.

8. What impact will an increase to the out-of-state fee have on our students?

We recommend the Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees approve the out-of-state fee increases to apply only to students admitted after Fall 2026.

This means all current out-of-state students would experience no increase in their out-of-state fees (as long as they do not leave Florida Poly and apply for readmission).

It would also mean the out-of-state fee increase would not apply to students admitted into Fall 2026.

Nonresident students admitted after Fall 2026 would pay the increased out-of-state fee. For our 30-credit hour master's degree programs, this means the total sticker price for the degree would increase by \$2,736. For our 120-credit hour bachelor's degree programs, every 1% increase in the out-of-state fee would increase the total sticker price by \$612. Thus, a 6.8% increase in the undergraduate out-of-state fee would increase the total sticker price by \$4,171. A full 15% increase in the undergraduate out-of-state fee would increase the total sticker price by \$9,180.

With our current enrollment growth trajectory – and with the value we provide students through financial aid, our educational experience, and post-graduation outcomes – we believe an increase to our out-of-state fee of up to 15% will not negatively impact our enrollment goals.

9. What have the other SUS institutions proposed?

The following table summarizes the out-of-state fee increases proposed by the other SUS universities in 2025-26 and 2026-27:

	2025-26 increase	2026-27 increase
FGCU	0%	0%
UNF		
*FAMU		
FAU	0%	15%
*NCF		
UWF		
UCF	10%	0%
FIU		
FSU	10%	15%
UF		
USF		
*Florida Poly	0%	UG: __% GR: __%

* = out of compliance in 2023-24

Supporting Documentation: N/A

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

**Florida Polytechnic University
Board of Trustees
May 22, 2026**

Subject: 2025-2030 Strategic Plan: *Progress Report*

Proposed Board Action

Information only. No action required.

Background Information

Bryan Brooks, Vice President, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications, will provide an update on the progress of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

Supporting Documentation: N/A

Prepared by: Dr. Devin Stephenson; Vice Presidents Thiessen, Brooks, Stargel, Allen, and McKnight

**Florida Polytechnic University
Board of Trustees
May 22, 2026**

Subject: 2026 Legislative Session Report

Proposed Board Action

Information only – no action required.

Background Information

Kelli Stargel will provide an update on recent Legislative Committee activity in Tallahassee and the current status of Florida Poly’s funding priorities. Additionally, she will review the current standing of the University’s federal appropriations requests within the fiscal process.

Supporting Documentation: N/A

Prepared by: Kelli Stargel, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, Development, and External Relations

**Florida Polytechnic University
Board of Trustees
May 22, 2026**

Subject: Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar

Proposed Board Action

TBD

Background Information

Chair Kigel will review the 2026-2027 Board meeting calendar and make note of upcoming meetings.

Supporting Documentation: Board of Trustees 2026-2027 Meeting Calendar

Prepared by: Kristen Wharton, Corporate Secretary and Special Assistant to the President



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2026-2027 Board Meeting Schedule

2026	
Friday, February 6	Committee Meetings (Virtual)
Friday, February 13	Full Board Meeting (In-person) <i>(student engagement)</i>
Thursday, April 30	Academic and Student Affairs Committee and Full Board Meeting (Virtual)
Friday, May 15	Committee Meetings (Virtual)
Friday, May 22	Full Board Meeting (In-person) <i>(BOT/Foundation Board Event)</i>
Friday, September 18	Committee Meetings (Virtual)
Friday, September 25	Full Board Meeting (In-person) <i>(faculty engagement)</i>
November 10	Committee Meetings (Virtual)
November 17-18	Annual Board Retreat and Full Board Meeting (In-person) <i>(industry engagement/annual Board dinner)</i>
2027	
Friday, February 12	Committee Meetings (Virtual)
Friday, February 19	Full Board Meeting (In-person) <i>(student engagement)</i>
Friday, April 30	Academic and Student Affairs Committee and Full Board Meeting (Virtual)
Friday, May 28	Committee Meetings (Virtual)
Friday, June 4	Full Board Meeting (In-person) <i>(BOT/Foundation Board Event)</i>



2026 Meeting Schedule

January 28-29	Florida State University, Tallahassee
February 23	<i>Virtual Meeting via Zoom</i>
March 25-26	University of West Florida, Pensacola
May 26	<i>Virtual Meeting via Zoom</i>
June 24-25	Florida Atlantic University
September 2-3	Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers
September 30	Committee Workshop University of Florida, Gainesville
November 12–13	Florida International University, Miami

****Will include a full day for the annual Trustee Summit***