



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board of Trustees **DRAFT** Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2026
1:00 P – 2:00 P

Florida Polytechnic University
Virtual via Microsoft Teams

I. Call to Order

Chair Beth Kigel called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

Trustees not present: Vice Chair Jesse Panuccio, Trustee Colby Manrodt

Staff Present: President Devin Stephenson, Bryan Brooks, Dr. Tanner McKnight, Dr. Cole Allen, Joshua Millikin, David Blanton, David Calhoun, Katie Daniel, and Kristen Wharton.

III. Public Comment

There was one request received for public comment. Mr. Mike Sanderson addressed agenda item IV. University Operating Budget FY2026-2027.

IV. University Operating Budget FY2026-2027

Dr. Tanner McKnight, Vice President and CFO, stated the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year is \$119,526,722, a 6.76% increase driven by strong student enrollment growth that offsets a slight reduction in non-recurring state appropriations (from \$10M to \$7.5M). Out of this total, \$71 million is allocated to the Education and General (E&G) fund. To support its expanding student body, the University is investing approximately \$4 million in Academic Affairs to hire 12 to 15 new faculty members and \$2 million in Student Affairs for support services, balanced by operational streamline efficiencies in IT, administration, and outsourced legal services.

To ensure long-term stability, the University has transitioned the vital Fulbright program into the regular operating budget while maintaining a healthy higher-education spending benchmark of 63% personnel and 37% operating expenses. The remainder of the budget consists of balanced, "dollar-in, dollar-out" funds, including auxiliary services, financial aid, and conservative grant estimates, which scale directly with enrollment and keep the overall \$119.5 million budget balanced.

Chair Kigel inquired if trustees had any questions; hearing none,

Trustee Sumanth Neelam made a motion to approve the University Operating Budget for fiscal year 2026-2027. Trustee Ilya Shapiro seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY2027-2028

David Calhoun, Assistant Vice President of Facilities and Safety Services, presented the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2027-2028. He noted that the University's capital priorities remain unchanged from the prior year, with the Student Achievement Center as Priority 1, the Campus Relocation Project as Priority 2, and Academic Building 3 as Priority 3.

Calhoun reported that outside of a minor increase in projected total project costs—resulting from updated BOG space-type unit cost guidelines—all project details remain the same.

Chair Kigel inquired if trustees had any questions; hearing none,

Trustee Derek Henderson made a motion to the Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal year 2027-2028. Trustee Sidney Theis seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Legislative Budget Request (LBR) FY2027-2028

Bryan Brooks, Vice President of Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Strategic Communications, presented the Legislative Budget Request (LBR) for fiscal year 2027-2028, which requests \$20 million in recurring funds. The request is split into two components: \$1.5 million for an AI enablement and operational growth strategy (Element 1) and \$18.5 million to support growth toward the University's enrollment goals (Element 2). Florida Poly remains the fastest-growing university in the State University System (SUS), with fall enrollment projected to reach up to 2,200 students. This represents an approximate 25% growth over the past two recruitment cycles, pacing well ahead of the 2030 enrollment target.

Brooks emphasized the funding imperative, noting that without this recurring support, the state's investment per student would drop from the current \$24,946 to an unsustainable \$8,750 by FY30-31, which is significantly below the projected SUS average of \$20,386. To address Element 1, Cole Allen, Vice President of Information Technology Services and CIO, explained that the AI enablement strategy will leverage artificial intelligence to streamline operations and decouple expense growth from enrollment expansion. Additionally, the initiative will provide students with high-value internships and hands-on experience in enterprise agentic AI.

The remaining \$18.5 million (Element 2) will fund existing and new academic programs, ensuring the University maintains its 18:1 student-to-faculty ratio as it expands. Brooks stated that funding must be secured now to proactively support impending growth. During the discussion, Trustee Rob Kincart commended the 18:1 ratio, and Trustee Sidney Theis recommended incorporating SUS comparative ratios into future legislative talking points to strengthen Florida Poly's advocacy.

Chair Kigel inquired if trustees had any questions; hearing none,

Trustee Sumanth Neelam made a motion to approve fiscal year 2028 Legislative Budget Request for \$20,000,000 in recurring funds. Trustee Rob Kincart seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Workday ERP System Contract

Katie Daniel, University Counsel, presented a motion to authorize the President to execute agreements for the administration of the Workday Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system and to increase the cumulative Workday budget by up to \$2 million, establishing a new ceiling not to exceed \$7.78 million over the remaining seven and a half years of the ten-year contract. Daniel reminded the Board that while the original \$5.78 million renewal was approved in 2023, the University was not delegated authority to execute subsequent modifications or incorporate new service functionalities. The requested \$2 million delegation provides the administrative flexibility to adopt newly available Workday features and optimize system utility.

Trustee Sumanth Neelam inquired about potential software redundancies, asking how Workday interacts with other University administrative systems. Allen clarified that Florida Poly utilizes Workday for HR and finance, and Banner for student services, explaining that choosing best-in-class systems allows the University to select specific modules and avoid overlapping functionalities. Regarding artificial intelligence, Allen highlighted that the University is orchestrating Agentic AI centrally through its secure Microsoft enterprise environment. He noted that leveraging this unified Microsoft framework allows the University to adopt new Workday automations and API connectors to streamline manual processes without incurring duplicative licensed software costs.

Trustee Sumanth Neelam made a motion to approve authorization for the President to execute all instruments, documents, and contracts necessary to effectuate and administer the Workday ERP System project, including amendments, addenda, exhibits, schedules, statements of work, and other ancillary documents, within a budget not to exceed \$7,788,500. Trustee Eliot Peace seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Kristen Wharton
Corporate Secretary