



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES *Student Affairs Committee*

MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

Thursday, October 30, 2025
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Augustus B. Turnbull Conference Center
555 W Pensacola St, Tallahassee, FL 32306
Room 103

Attended in Person: Board Chair Peter Collins (*ex-officio voting member*), Board Vice Chair Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz, Trustee Weatherford (arrived late), Trustee Dale

Attended via Zoom: None

Absent: Trustee Weisheyer

Staff: Dr. Amy Hecht

Others in attendance: Trustee Jones, Trustee Henderson, President McCullough, VP Carolyn Egan, VP Joe O'Shea, First Lady Vartikar and other University administrators and staff.

I. Call to Order and Welcome *Trustee de las Cuevas- Diaz*

In Trustee Weatherford's absence (he arrived later at the meeting), Board Vice Chair de las Cuevas- Diaz called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes *August 28, 2025, meeting minutes*

Chairman Collins motioned to approve the minutes from the August 28, 2025, meeting. Trustee Dale seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously by all committee members present.

III. Informational Items and Updates

Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs

a. DC Study Away Center Updates:

- i. Dr. Hecht announced that the new cohort for our Study Away program will be 11 students, participating in various majors: Arts and Science, Business, Criminology, Social Sciences, and Public Policy.
- ii. More than twenty-three students have also applied for the summer term.
- iii. We are currently working with Josh Duncan, Director of Federal Relations, on matching them with internship placements in Washington, D.C.

b. NW District Updates:

- i. Dr. Hecht discussed the current design phase and highlighted the latest renderings for Phase 1, which include 1,200 new beds, a new dining hall, courtyard space, and a parking garage.
- ii. An elevated walkway was also added to connect the Legacy Walk and the new residence hall, for the purpose of student safety.
- iii. Dr. Hecht talked about how the design team has worked hard to incorporate elements of the campus to ensure the new residence halls reflect the FSU feel.

c. Boutique Fitness Updates:

- i. We have landed on a name for the new project: Arq Fitness.
- ii. The space was officially handed over to the Arq team on October 24th.
- iii. They are currently working on hiring students and other staff members to manage the gym.
- iv. The team will begin marketing efforts around campus this Fall and continue into early Spring.

d. Stop Campus Hazing Act:

- i. Dr. Hecht introduced a new program that Freddy Juarez, Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life, created with his team.
- ii. Mr. Juarez explained that the program was called the Power of One, where students, staff, and administrators could participate in an interactive experience that engaged them in a series of decision-making scenarios focused on hazing prevention strategies and promoting personal accountability. The program empowered students to recognize when and how to say no or intervene in challenging situations. A flow chart guided participants through their choices, with each decision leading to different outcomes—ultimately culminating in an escape-room-style simulation of a conduct hearing designed to illustrate the consequences of their actions.
- iii. Nearly 1,000 students participated in the initiative, and the team is already on track to host a second iteration of the program.
- iv. Programming in memory of Andrew Coffey and his continued impact on the FSU community; we were also honored to host his parents this week.

e. Steppingblocks:

- i. The University has purchased Steppingblocks and are in the process of implementing the platform.
- ii. The tool enhances FSU's online data capabilities to track alumni immediately after graduation and 5-10 years post-graduation.
- iii. The platform provides valuable insights for Advancement, college deans, and department chairs.
- iv. It will help us identify where alumni are located and highlight major concentrations of academic discipline.
- v. It will also allow us to measure alumni success, hiring trends, employer engagement, market demand, and workforce readiness.
- vi. We have presented it to the deans and chairs and are working with them over the fall semester to familiarize them with the platform and are looking to roll it out to the students in January.

f. Food for Thought Pantry Campaign Update:

- i. Currently fundraising for major renovations to create a space reminiscent of a modern grocery store.
- ii. Planned updates include bulk storage options to enhance efficiency and reduce costs, with a greater emphasis on cleanliness, efficiency, and accessibility.
- iii. Addition of a community collaboration space to partner with other offices and external organizations for educational initiatives.
- iv. Approximately one quarter of the renovation is complete; progress is steady but accelerating.
- v. President McCullough then let everyone know that he knows one of the board members has a very good relationship with the Publix CEO and he thinks we should explore their support. Trustee Weatherford agreed with this statement and encouraged this.
- vi. Dr. Hecht's main goal is to provide all students with the dignity and access they deserve while shopping at the pantry.

g. Student Organizational Highlight

- a. Chart your course - Peer Navigators
 - i. Dr. Hecht invited Andrea Saavedra and Ryan Short to speak to the group, who are both peer navigators.
 - ii. Both students teach the Chart Your Course, which is a part of Engage 100 and is a one-credit-hour peer-taught course designed for first-year students at FSU.
 - iii. The peer navigators fully develop the materials, teach the class, and help students develop study habits, acquire professional skills, and learn how to engage on campus.
 - iv. They have been able to grow as leaders while also learning important skills such as classroom management, facilitation, and engagement techniques.
 - v. Dr. Hecht thanked them for what they are doing for the first-year students and asked what their biggest surprises have been in their experience.
 - vi. Trustee Weatherford commended the students for their initiative and commitment to connection and leadership and highlighted how impressive they are.

IV. Open Forum for Trustees

Trustee Drew Weatherford, Chair

Trustee Weatherford asked the Board if there was anything they would like to discuss in the Open Forum. Dr. Hecht then thanked everyone including the students for coming. There were no further comments.

V. Adjournment

Trustee Drew Weatherford, Chair

Trustee Weatherford made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Trustee Dale seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.