



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

University Research Committee

MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

3:00 – 4:00 pm

FSU Westcott Building
3012 Westcott Annex
3rd Floor Office of Research
Conference Room 3025
222 South Copeland St.
Tallahassee, FL 32306

Attended (committee): Jorge Gonzalez, Roxanne Hughes, Brian Murphy, and Justin Roth.

Absent (committee): None.

Other Trustees in attendance: Jim Henderson.

Staff and Others: President Richard McCullough, Gavin Burgess, Jennifer Collins, Josh Duncan, Katie Grab, Tarah Jean, Glenn Ladwig, Russ Lentz, Stacey Patterson, Dennis Schnittker, Jeremy Slaga, Kelly Starke, Jai Vartikar, and William Wellock.

I. Call to Order and Welcome *Trustee Jorge Gonzalez, Chair*

Trustee Gonzalez welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. A quorum was confirmed.

II. Approval of Minutes *October 30, 2025, and January 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes*

The minutes were approved unanimously and without objection.

III. Informational Items and Updates

A. Federal Landscape for 2026

Dr. Stacey Patterson, Vice President for Research

Dr. Patterson reported that FSU's research enterprise continues strong upward momentum. FY25 closed at \$488.2M in research expenditures, reflecting ~50% growth in four years. Proposal and award activity remain robust despite a turbulent federal environment marked by grant delays, cancellations, and shifting agency missions. Agencies are undergoing major reorganizations, with priorities moving toward national security, AI, biotechnology, and applied research.

FSU is responding by broadening its funding portfolio, strengthening partnerships, and aligning proposals with emerging federal priorities. The research office emphasized fundamentals—clear writing, significance, and proactive proposal development, highlighting that early-career investigators are producing impactful work.

Dr. Patterson introduced Mr. Jeremy Slaga, the university's inaugural Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, noting that he began his role on January 5 of this year. She provided an overview of his professional background, emphasized the specialized skill set he brings to FSU Health, and expressed how pleased the university is to welcome him to FSU.

B. FSU Health Update

Mr. Jeremy Slaga, Vice President and Chief Clinical Operations Officer

Mr. Slaga introduced himself and provided the Committee with additional details about his professional background.

He reiterated that FSU Health is uniquely positioned to address Florida's shortage of academic-clinical capacity, noting that the organization fills a statewide gap by integrating research, education, and clinical delivery.

Major facilities are advancing on schedule, including the Academic Health Center at TMH (opening 2026) and the Panama City Beach expansion, which will add a 100–180 bed hospital by 2028. Strategic advantages include a strong talent pipeline, research-clinical integration, and growing partnerships.

Over the next 12–24 months, priorities include opening the Tallahassee Academic Health Center on time, expanding ambulatory care, strengthening financial resilience through grants and partnerships, and increasing FSU's market presence.

IV. Open Forum for Trustees

Trustee Jorge Gonzalez, Chair

Committee members welcomed Mr. Slaga and a few questions were asked regarding data sharing and he, and Dr. Patterson, expressed that there is currently a data sharing agreement in place.

V. Adjournment

Trustee Jorge Gonzalez, Chair

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

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