



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student Affairs Committee

MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

Thursday, August 27, 2026

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

FSU Westcott Building
Conference Room 201
222 South Copeland St.
Tallahassee, FL 32306

Attended in Person: Trustee Ballard (Committee Chair), Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz, Trustee Seibert, Trustee Weisheyer

Absent: N/A

Staff: Dr. Amy Hecht

Others in attendance: First Lady Jai Vartikar, Trustee Henderson, University Vice Presidents, and staff.

I. Call to Order and Welcome
Trustee Kathryn Ballard, Chair

Trustee Ballard called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes
June 18, 2026, meeting minutes

Trustee Seibert motioned to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2026, meeting. Trustee Ballard seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously by all committee members present.

III. Action Items for Consideration of Recommendation to the Board of Trustees

Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs

- a) **Action Item I: Request for Approval:** Proposed Amendment to Regulation FSU-3.0045 Involuntary Medical Withdrawal

Trustee Seibert moved to approve the Proposed Amendment to Regulation FSU-3.0045 Involuntary Medical Withdrawal. Trustee Ballard seconded the motion, and the item was unanimously approved for recommendation by the Committee to the full Board by all present at the meeting.

- b) **Action Item II: Request for Approval:** Proposed Amendment to Regulation FSU-3.004 Student Conduct Code

Trustee Seibert moved to approve the Proposed Amendment to Regulation FSU-3.004 Student Conduct Code. Trustee Ballard seconded the motion, and the item was unanimously approved for recommendation by the Committee to the full Board by all present at the meeting.

- c) **Action Item III: Request for Approval:** Proposed Amendment to Regulation FSU - 3.0041 Student Organization Conduct Code

Trustee Seibert moved to approve the Proposed Amendment to Regulation FSU - 3.0041 Student Organization Conduct Code. Trustee Ballard seconded the motion, and the item was unanimously approved for recommendation by the Committee to the full Board by all present at the meeting.

IV. Informational Items and Updates

Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs

a. Summer Semester Recap

- i. Dr. Hecht provided an overview of Student Affairs' summer programming, highlighting more than 45 programs and events designed to connect students, build community, and introduce students to campus resources. Programming included lake days, sports festivals, involvement fairs, study breaks, and other engagement opportunities that helped students build relationships, discover resources, and become connected to the FSU community.
- ii. First Lady Dr. Jai Vartikar visited with Orientation Leaders over the summer to recognize their work welcoming new students, commemorating FSU's 175th Anniversary with a group photo featuring the new 175th anniversary logo Orientation Leader polos.

b. Nole Bound Programs

- i. Dr. Hecht provided updates on the Division's Bound programs, highlighting strong participation and continued engagement with alumni, Trustees, corporate partners, and prospective students. D.C. Bound welcomed more than 75 students and alumni to the U.S. Senate for an evening of networking and community, hosted through the generosity of Trustee Roth. Tampa Bound welcomed approximately 100 attendees and included more than 30 ReliaQuest interns

hosted through the generosity of Trustee Murphy, while the inaugural Fort Lauderdale Bound and Miami Bound programs each engaged more than 60 and 75 participants, respectively. Miami Bound also provided an opportunity to connect with more than 30 Miami Dade College Honors students interested in attending FSU. The Division is exploring moving all Bound programs to June beginning in 2027.

- ii. DSA staff are working with Board Vice Chair de las Cuevas-Diaz to identify and evaluate potential new locations for Miami Bound that will enhance the experience while continuing to meet the needs and interests of participating students.

c. Fall Semester Opening

- i. Dr. Hecht provided an overview of Fall 2026 Move-In. More than 6,000 students participated in Move-In, with no students remaining on the housing waitlist.
- ii. Welcome Week which spanned from August 19th – 29th and had over 76+ programs for students to attend to kick off the Fall Semester.

d. Sorority Recruitment

- i. A total of 2,092 women registered for recruitment, resulting in 1,478 bids extended (a 74% match rate) and a historic chapter median size of 326 members.
- ii. To better manage student volume, the recruitment timeline was expanded—most notably by extending the Scholarship Round to three days—supported by 145 student recruitment counselors.
- iii. Trustees and DSA staff discussed FSU's continued commitment to a value-based recruitment process, emphasizing the importance of aligning recruitment practices with the University's core values and student experience.

e. Family Weekend 2026

- i. Dr. Hecht provided an overview of upcoming Family Weekend programming, including the return of Circus Family Weekend shows, which has already sold out.

f. Homecoming 2026 Updates

- i. Dr. Hecht asked Mr. Freddy Juarez to present the changes to Homecoming. Mr. Juarez talked about how the parade route was officially updated to run down Jefferson Street and end at Tanner Hall (PD Station), with floats proceeding to park at Doak Campbell Stadium and spectators directed to the Main Campus Fields. The start time was moved back to 3:30 PM to boost local community involvement, and student organizers are actively educating groups on traditional float building to re-engage local schools and businesses.
- ii. In a new collaboration with the Seminole Boosters, the university is introducing a full-scale Homecoming Carnival on the Main Campus Fields. Operating until 11:00 PM, the event features a multi-stage student and headliner music performance, carnival rides, a Ferris wheel, games, food trucks, and local vendors.
- iii. Board Vice Chair de las Cuevas-Diaz emphasized the importance of communicating Homecoming updates, enhancements, and new offerings to alumni to encourage continued engagement and participation.
- iv. The First Lady noted the importance of communicating all events to alumni given the University's 175th Anniversary enhancements. This prompted

discussion about partnering with University Marketing and DSA Marketing to effectively tell the story and ensure alumni are aware of the related changes and improvements.

- v. Dr. Hecht and Mr. Juarez noted that the University will explore targeted social media advertising and other strategic communications efforts, in partnership with all marketing offices, to increase awareness of Homecoming improvements and encourage alumni participation.

g. Summits

- i. FSU hosted the 2026 SUS Hazing Prevention Summit and brought together representatives from all 12 State University System institutions to discuss hazing prevention, student conduct, and student organization safety. FSU also hosted SUS Student Union Directors for collaboration and discussion of best practices related to student engagement, operations, staffing, financial sustainability, event management, and emerging trends.

h. NW District Housing Updates

- i. Dr. Hecht presented plans for the completion of the NW District development, projecting campus-wide totals.

i. ReliaQuest Philanthropic Gift & Initiatives

- i. Dr. Hecht highlighted a \$1.5 million philanthropic investment from ReliaQuest supporting cybersecurity research, artificial intelligence initiatives, student experiential learning, and industry partnerships. Initiatives include the ReliaQuest Innovation Challenge, an interdisciplinary AI and Cybersecurity Digital Badge, student immersion opportunities, and proposed campus-wide engagement activities.
- ii. FSU Student Affairs will send approximately 25 students to Tampa over Spring Break for an intensive, hands-on learning program. The experience features experiential site visits at core cybersecurity centers, executive-level tech shadowing, and targeted career tracking for a select cohort of digital badge students.
- iii. The campus takeover event led by Student Affairs will drive a highly visible, interactive university-wide takeover activation featuring interactive tech showcases in core campus spaces, on-site student enrollment drives, and corporate team matchups designed to boost digital badge registration and highlight research challenges.

V. Open Forum for Trustees

Trustee Kathryn Ballard, Chair

VI. Adjournment

Trustee Kathryn Ballard, Chair

Board Vice Chair de las Cuevas-Diaz made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Trustee Seibert seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.