



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Student Affairs Committee

MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

Thursday, February 27, 2025
Time: 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

Florida State University
Westcott Building
Conference Room 201
222 South Copeland St.
Tallahassee, FL 32306

Committee Members in Attendance: Trustee Drew Weatherford, Chair; Trustee Deborah Sargeant; Trustee Jackson Boisvert; Trustee Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz.

Committee Members Absent: N/A.

Committee Staff: Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs.

Also in attendance: Trustee Birmingham, other University Vice Presidents and staff.

I. Call to Order and Welcome *Trustee Drew Weatherford, Chair*

Trustee Weatherford called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz motioned to approve the committee meeting minutes from November 20, 2024. Trustee Boisvert seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously by all committee members.

III. Student Affairs Updates

Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs

a. General Updates

- i. Dr. Hecht opened by reminding the group that it was Trustee Boisvert's last meeting before his term as President of the Student Government Association ends.
- ii. She also introduced Takila Toston as the new Associate Director of Development for the Division of Student Affairs.

b. New Housing Construction Timeline

- i. The Northwest Expansion project is estimated to be completed in Fall 2028.
- ii. Trustee Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz asked if we would be willing to aim for 2027.
 1. Dr. Hecht said, we could look at a soft launch in 2027 - maybe with students from Panama City, Study Abroad, or FSU Next but advised they are working to continue to trim the timeline.
- iii. The Housing team has begun holding monthly meetings for the Northwest expansion project and is hoping to have the design/proofs completed by May 2025.
- iv. Part of this initiative is to replace old beds and increase the total amount of beds available for students from 6,700 to 8,000.
- v. The Housing Contract Process for Fall 2025 has opened and there is already a waitlist for student housing.
- vi. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz clarified that Phase 1 of the project will not include the addition of new beds. Dr. Hecht confirmed that Phase 2 will increase the number of available beds and hopefully add more apartment-style living to on-campus residences.

vii. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz asked if it would be possible to look at available land and build new additions before tearing down existing residence halls such as Salley Hall.

1. Dr. Hecht suggested building around Salley Hall during Phases 1 and 2, and demolishing Salley during Phase 3 so Housing keeps as many beds available for students as possible.

2. Trustee Weatherford agreed that Salley Hall should not be demolished until more beds are available; prioritizing building more instead of demolishing first because the demand for housing is already high.

viii. The Student Affairs BOT Committee agreed that if freshmen apply for on-campus housing before the deadline, they will likely find a bed, whereas if they wait until after the deadline, they miss the opportunity to live on-campus.

ix. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz mentioned that other schools have 100% of first-year students living on-campus and some schools retain students on-campus for three years. She suggested that we aim to be competitive in terms of on-campus living because, as the research has shown us, student wellness increases when they live on campus.

x. Trustee Boisvert reminded the group that the living conditions in Salley Hall are not updated and asked how possible it would be to keep the building running until this project is completed.

1. Dr. Hecht clarified that Housing recently updated Salley Hall and will continue to update it, and that air filters are updated much more often than even recommended.

2. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz also noted that this extension would only be for one year so long-term upgrades are not necessary.

- xi. Dr. Hecht circled back to overall on-campus housing statistics, mentioning that Florida State is not considered a residential campus because we are not able to house a certain percentage of total students which they believed was 20%. It was later confirmed the number is 25% of undergraduate beds.
- xii. Dr. Hecht also brought up the need for dining and parking accommodations for this expansion project. Phase 1 would include the addition of 500 dining seats and 500 parking spots.
- xiii. Trustee Weatherford inquired about budget needs, to which Dr. Hecht said the estimated cost would be around \$180 million for Phase 1, however this cost may increase.
 - 1. He asked how long the project would take in total, and Dr. Hecht replied that they are estimating it would take 18 months from start to finish.
 - 2. The committee is currently in the design phase, which they are hoping to complete by May 2025.
- xiv. Trustee Weatherford inquired about working on multiple parts of the expansion project simultaneously to speed up the process.
- xv. Trustee Weatherford also asked if it was possible to have all freshmen living on campus with the expansion. He noted that they should not be required to live on campus, but they should be encouraged to, and we should have enough beds to accommodate all freshmen.
- xvi. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz said she would want to require all freshmen to live on-campus and take in-person classes. She also wanted to know what other issues may occur if FSU required all freshmen to live on-campus.

1. Trustee Weatherford noted that this would be a good retreat topic and asked that any issues regarding on-campus living mandates for freshmen be brought to him.

- xvii. The Board discussed the possibility of giving first-year students priority for on-campus housing and opening a waitlist for upperclassmen.

c. FSU “Study Away” Property in Washington, D.C.

- i. Dr. Hecht announced that Housing has found a couple properties they are looking at further for the Florida State “Study Away” property in Washington, D.C.

- ii. The property being looked at consists of two adjacent townhouses that would be run by FSU Housing. Upon completion, the property would be modeled after the FSU International Programs study centers and would house 15 to 19 students at a time. One person would live on the property full-time and serve as the manager of the building.

1. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz mentioned that Holland & Knight has offices in D.C.

- a. Use relationships that we have, for spaces.

- iii. FSU will be holding the “D.C. Bound Noles” event on June 5, 2025, in Washington, D.C., with more details to come.

- iv. There is a possibility the president may be in DC during the month of June.

1. The Board discussed the possibility of doing VIP tours with the president and some of the “D.C. Bound” guests during the president’s potential June visit if the new buildings are ready.

d. Welcome Week & Spring Fest 2025

- i. Spring Fest, hosted by FSL, Housing, and SOI, took place on January 15th at Landis Green and had a record number of students in attendance.

e. Hazing Act

- i. The Stop Hazing Act continues to be in effect at Florida State. Under the Act, schools must report hazing incidents to campus security in their Annual Security Report and must disclose information on anti-hazing policies, reporting mechanisms, investigative procedures, applicable laws, and campus hazing and prevention programs.
- ii. Institutions must also publish a Campus Hazing Transparency Report with a summary of each hazing incident for which each student organization was found responsible.
- iii. FSU is still in good standing and does not tolerate hazing in any student organization.
 1. FSU is continuing to review our current hazing policies, working with campus partners to identify our reporting structure, and collecting hazing statistics for all student organizations.
- iv. All new hazing policies will be put into place effective June 2025. In July 2025, our website will be updated with current information, including how to report hazing incidents and the Training and Educational Program Schedule will be updated.
- v. Trustee Weatherford inquired about progress on the Blue Light Project.
 1. During the summer, SGA collaborated with FSUPD to discuss existing blue lights and their practicality. They do not have great metrics.
 2. While all the broken blue lights have been replaced, their software is still outdated, and they are not utilized efficiently.

3. The Board agreed that it would be beneficial to replace the Blue Light Project with something more current, but that we should keep the blue lights up until a new initiative is completely installed.

f. Fraternity & Sorority Life Updates

- i. Florida State will host the Florida SUS Annual Hazing Summit per the Florida Board of Governors this summer.
- ii. A record number of Potential New Members signed up for Spring Recruitment this semester.
 1. Trustee Weatherford asked what that number was, to which Dr. Hecht replied that there were 7,300 participants.
- iii. A fifth Greek Council was recently added to Fraternity and Sorority life (United Greek Council), and it consists of 2 chapters: Alpha Epsilon Pi and Beta Upsilon Chi.
- iv. 22% of Undergraduate students at Florida State are involved in Fraternity & Sorority Life.

g. Circus Updates

- i. The foundational concrete for the Circus has been completed and the new circus tent will be put up in March 2025.
- ii. The first show taking place under the new tent will be during Halloween in Fall 2025.
- iii. There will also be a Re-Opening Celebration in Fall 2025, with details to come.

h. ACC Leadership Symposium

- i. Florida State recently hosted over 100 student leaders for the annual ACC Leadership Symposium. 5-7 students from each institution in the ACC attended this weekend-long conference and it was a great success.

i. Career Center Updates

- i. In the future, we hope to partner and connect with the FSU Panama City Campus for Career-readiness initiatives.
- ii. We are also hoping to hire someone to serve in Panama City for all their career services needs. This person would ideally train at the Tallahassee campus and then move to Panama City full-time.
- iii. Health – pre health career advising – looking to expand the offerings
 1. Targeted FSU Shadow offering
 2. Possibly 4 times a year
- iv. The Career Center is partnering with the Office of Institutional Research to bring a new career-focused program called Stepping Blocks to campus over the coming months. This technology will track career pathways of current students and alumni. Funding for this initiative was approved this week.
 1. Trustee Weatherford inquired about what we currently use that would be comparable, to which Dr. Liddell replied that we currently do not use anything comparable, and that this information has been self-reported in the past.
 2. Dr. Liddell pointed out that Stepping Blocks will also give students the tools to know what steps to take throughout the job search process.
 3. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz expressed that Stepping Blocks would help Florida State alumni to be more competitive in the job market. She inquired about encouraging students to utilize the Career Center both during and after their time at Florida State.
 4. Trustee Weatherford asked Dr. Liddell if both alumni and students would have access to the program, to which he replied that students will be

trained on how to utilize it, and alumni will have access to it but no formal training.

5. Trustee Sargeant asked if there was an exclusive LinkedIn that serves a similar purpose for FSU students. Dr. Liddell said there was no dedicated career pathway tracking LinkedIn and that this is another avenue the Career Center would be trying to build off of. He mentioned that the College of Business and the College of Communication and Information have been utilizing LinkedIn efficiently recently.
 6. Trustee Weatherford emphasized the importance of collecting data about what alumni are achieving after their time at Florida State. Dr. Hecht agreed and added that this data can be used for engagement and giving.
 7. Trustee Weatherford asked about cost for this initiative, to which Dr. Liddell replied that the annual cost is \$75,000. Trustee Weatherford concluded that he looks forward to seeing the implementation of this program.
- v. Regarding Geographic Affinity Engagement, the Career Center looks forward to replicating the City Bound Noles pilot in strategic locations such as Washington, D.C., Tampa, Fort Lauderdale, and Miami.
 - vi. Dr. Liddell discussed the Careers in Public Service Conference that took place in February, which welcomed employers from the federal and state government, agencies, law enforcement and more. Numerous alumni in the field were invited to the event and we hosted 24 speakers, all of whom were FSU alumni. This conference showed a demand for careers in public service by FSU students.

1. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz noted that she knows of many families and alumni connections within the Public Service field who would want to speak at future replications of this conference.
 2. Dr. Liddell expressed that the Career Center hopes to build off this event, using it as inspiration for future career fairs or conferences targeted towards specific fields. Some examples could be the arts and healthcare fields.
 3. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz asked about bringing these events to local areas, combining recent and established alumni for networking purposes. Her reasoning was that some students can be overwhelmed as they approach graduation, and it may help to hear from people of all experience levels in their field.
 4. Trustee Boisvert said that he loved attending the conference and hearing from some familiar graduates.
 5. Dr. Hecht noted how valuable it was to hear from the speakers, especially considering their journeys from 20 years prior to where they are now.
 6. Trustee Weatherford asked about using an existing program to give students exposure to career fairs and mock interviews while engaging our own staff. Dr. Liddell said that Nole Network is the best existing resource to achieve that goal.
- vii. Dr. Liddell reported that the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Career Fairs showed lower attendance from both students and employers compared to recent years. Because it costs an estimated \$70,000 to execute the Seminole Futures Career Fair (a one-day event), he suggested that they also look at different options,

possibly an event that consists of multiple smaller career fairs targeted towards specific fields.

1. These events would focus on collaborating with individual colleges so that employers can spend more quality time with a variety of students from different colleges. For example, the Careers in STEM Fair would be divided into smaller events such as a Careers in Engineering Fair and would target students from the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering.
2. Another suggestion for this series of events would be allowing employers to interview with students at the Career Center in the days following the fair.
3. Dr. Liddell noted that institutions are experiencing lower career fair attendance on a nationwide level.
4. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz expressed that the University should ensure students are aware of the Career Fair before it occurs.
5. Trustee Sargeant clarified that the decrease in attendance was a trend.
6. Dr. Liddell clarified that they do not plan to eliminate the mass career fair but rather adjusting to the current trends in university/college career services. This modified career fair would serve the same amount of students but look more like a few days of niche events than one large fair for all students to attend.
7. Dr. Hecht pointed out that the Fall 2024 career fair had a higher attendance than the Spring one, which surprised her.
 - a. Trustee Weatherford closed by suggesting that we look further into career readiness initiatives that can be implemented digitally.

j. **Staff Updates**

i. Dr. Hecht announced that Phase 2 of the AVP/Dean of Students Search is in effect. The search committee will narrow the search down to 8 candidates next week, and then we will go down to 3-4 by April. Then, they will meet with the final 3-4 candidates in person. They are hoping to have the position filled by early summer 2025.

1. Trustee Weatherford inquired about the current roles of the candidates and if they are already employed in adjacent positions, to which Dr. Bowden replied that some candidates are already within a similar role and other candidates are one step down from an AVP/DOS position.
2. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz asked about logistics for potentially relocating someone for this role. When candidates interview in-person, they will be matched with a realtor who will help them find a home should they have to relocate.
3. Trustee Weatherford asked if there are internal candidates. Dr. Bowden replied that 3 of the 8 remaining candidates are internal.
4. Dr. Hecht noted that we are hoping to fill the role by June 2025 because waiting until August would not allow the candidate enough time to adjust before the start of the Fall semester.
5. Trustee Boisvert asked if the trustees could be involved in the interview process, Dr. Bowden replied that they can, and they would love to have students join for lunch when they are on campus.

IV. 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 Repeal:** Repeal of University Regulation FSU-3.006, The University Defender

Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz moved to approve the repeal of Repeal of University Regulation FSU-3.006, The University Defender. Trustee Sargeant seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously by all present committee members.

V. Open Forum for Trustees

Trustee Drew Weatherford, Chair

a. Housing

- i. Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz circled back to housing and expressed that we need more details about the timeline and rationale behind decisions regarding housing. She also said that we should have a quick turnaround time between construction of new residence halls and students living in them, so we are able to house as many students as possible.
- ii. Trustee Weatherford agreed with Trustee de las Cuevas-Diaz and expressed desire for a “Top 5 Priority List.” He also expressed that housing would be his number one priority and that he wants outcomes for housing to be driven by a larger strategy.

b. Trustee Boisvert’s Last Meeting

- i. Trustee Boisvert thanked everyone for the chance to serve on the Board.

VI. Adjournment

Trustee Weatherford adjourned the meeting at 1:41 p.m.