



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student Affairs Committee

MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Zoom Meeting

Committee Members in Attendance: Trustee Drew Weatherford, Committee Chair; Trustee Deborah Sargeant; Trustee Carson Dale; Board Vice Chair Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz.

Committee Members Absent: none.

Committee Staff: Dr. Amy Hecht

Other Trustees in Attendance: Board Chair Peter Collins (ex-officio voting committee member), Trustee Gonzalez, Trustee Henderson, Trustee Hughes, Trustee Jones.

Also in Attendance: President Richard McCullough, and other University administrators and staff.

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Trustee Drew Weatherford, Chair

As the previous committee meetings concluded early, Committee Chair Weatherford called the meeting to order at 10:23 am. A quorum was confirmed.

II. Approval of Minutes

February 27, 2025, meeting minutes

Trustee Sergeant motioned to approve the committee meeting minutes from February 27, 2025. Board Vice Chair de las Cuevas-Diaz seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously by all committee members present on the call.

III. Student Affairs Update

Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs

a. Assistant Vice President/Dean of Students Final Update

- i. Dr. Hecht announced that Dr. Carlos Gomez will serve as the new Assistant Vice President/Dean of Students. Dr. Gomez earned his M.S.Ed. in Mental Health Counseling and a PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of Miami and has over 20 years of experience working in Student Affairs.
- ii. Dr. Gomez is currently out of the country but will begin his role as AVP/DOS on Monday, June 23rd, 2025.
- iii. Committee Chair Weatherford expressed his excitement for Dr. Gomez to begin this role. Committee Chair Weatherford spent time with him during one of his recent visits and is enthusiastic about his passion for Florida State University.
- iv. Dr. Hecht agreed with Committee Chair Weatherford and added that Dr. Gomez will lead health and wellness efforts for the Division of Student Affairs, supporting students' wellness journeys throughout their time at Florida State and beyond.

b. Orientation Updates

- i. New Student and Family Orientation began on May 18th. Over the course of the summer, Orientation leaders will welcome over 16,000 new students and their families to Florida State University. There will be a one week-long break during July.
- ii. Most of the Orientation takes place at the Student Union, so the University has committed to increased security precautions and police presence.

c. Organizational Wellness Summit

- i. Florida State University will host the annual Florida SUS Hazing Prevention Summit, a priority for the Board of Governors, on Thursday, June 12th and Friday, June 13th in the Student Union.

- ii. Some focuses of the Summit will be hazing prevention, mental health awareness, and organizational wellness initiatives. This will be an opportunity to showcase some of the research-backed efforts of the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Organizational Wellness.
- iii. Many institutions, including some in the SEC, have shown interest in FSU's cutting-edge organizational wellness efforts.

d. Line Dance 2025 Updates

- i. Fraternity and Sorority Life hosted the annual FSL LineDance, a dance competition between the 17 Panhellenic chapters, in March. The event also included several chapters from IFC and NPHC.
- ii. Students raised a total of over \$510,000 for various philanthropic causes, including over \$100,000 for the FSU Food for Thought Expansion Fund and \$30,000 for the FSU Victim Advocate Program. Other beneficiaries included FSU Unconquered Scholars, the FSU School of Dance, and other local foundations.

e. D.C. Bound Noles Updates

- i. Dr. Hecht announced that the Division of Student Affairs hosted over 40 FSU students and alumni for the first ever "D.C. Bound Noles" on June 5th. This event included a "networking how-to" panel during the day, which had a more intimate and focused group, and an evening networking event, which had high attendance from current students and alumni in the D.C. area.
- ii. Future "Noles Bound" events will take place in Tampa, Fort Lauderdale, and Miami. These events will encourage students to build networks in their area and embrace opportunities for mentorship and support from local alumni.
- iii. DSA hopes to expand "Noles Bound" to areas such as Atlanta and New York City in the future due to the large population of alumni that live in those areas.

f. Boutique Fitness Updates

- i. Dr. Hecht announced that the new Boutique Fitness center at FSU is estimated to open in the former FSU Bookstore in January 2026, with construction and marketing anticipated in Fall 2025. The marketing team is currently brainstorming potential names for this gym. This initiative is a “pay-to-play” fitness center where classes for FSU students and staff will be reservation-only. Some features of Boutique Fitness include yoga, Pilates, and F45.
- ii. This fitness center will be open to all faculty, staff, and students. It could serve as an opportunity for FSU to enter the fitness competition space (Hyrox, for example). This initiative could also help build community, bringing back students who currently go to off-campus gyms.
- iii. DSA hopes to sell out memberships during Fall 2025 so that students can begin using the space in Spring 2026. Dr. Hecht pointed out that this timing would align with students’ New Year’s resolutions and goals to get more involved on campus during the spring semester. DSA also hopes to ensure that the price point is comparable to what students are paying for off-campus workout spaces.
- iv. Committee Chair Weatherford emphasized the importance of the recovery aspect of Boutique Fitness, using the sauna and cold plunge as examples. He also stressed the importance of upholding the promised start date for sponsors, students, and faculty who sign up. He expressed excitement for the university’s commitment to wellness, nutrition, and recovery.
- v. Committee Chair Weatherford clarified that this gym will not replace the Leach but would rather add an elevated option for students who prefer a class-based setting for exercise. It is a “trendy” option but could also have benefits in terms of relationship-building and accountability. Lastly, pulling this audience away from the Leach would

potentially extend the life of the Leach, pushing back the need for renovation/expansion.

- vi. Committee Chair Weatherford also pointed out that, if successful, Boutique Fitness could expand to different areas of campus, including the Northwest expansion and near the intermural fields.
- vii. Board Vice Chair de las Cuevas-Diaz noted that this gym would give students a more diverse range of options for their fitness goals, allowing students who are intimidated by large gyms to have more structure. She hopes that FSU Campus Recreation can grow in the direction the community needs based on feedback they receive from this initiative. She also encouraged the board members to see the gym for themselves once it opens.
- viii. Trustee Dale expressed his appreciation and excitement for Boutique Fitness, saying that he hopes to utilize it once it opens. He also clarified that funds for this project would not come from Campus Recreation, which Dr. Hecht confirmed. Dr. Hecht added that, depending on the success of Boutique Fitness, a portion of sales would go towards Campus Recreation during the third year of its existence.
- ix. Committee Chair Weatherford added that this will become a meaningful revenue generator instead of taking funds away from any department. He also noted that there is potential for business partnerships through this initiative. He encouraged everyone to look up “Hyrox competitions,” which he anticipates will become a trend in the future. He also stated that he hopes to engage students in wellness through competitions like this. He also suggested that Student Affairs hosts a “wellness week” programming event in the future.
- x. Trustee Jones inquired about hours of operation for Boutique Fitness, to which Committee Chair Weatherford responded that they will be determined by student

demand, likely through a survey. Committee Chair Weatherford noted that it is common for classes to take place every hour, from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., on the hour. He also noted that this may look different for a college demographic, with faculty potentially preferring early mornings and students preferring afternoons/evenings.

- xi. Trustee Jones inquired about the availability of free weights or cardio machines on their own, to which Committee Chair Weatherford responded that those would fall under more of an “open gym” concept such as the Leach or the Health and Wellness Center.
- xii. Board Chair Collins expressed that there will be a very high demand when Student Affairs begins marketing initiatives and that the University may need additional facilities to keep up with that demand. He also noted that this would be a good learning opportunity for students who do not know how to work out on their own, need further instruction, or prefer class-based workouts.
- xiii. Committee Chair Weatherford brought up similar facilities in Tampa, noting that boutique fitness centers can be integrated into existing developments, or they can be used to activate new districts such as the NW District of FSU. He also suggested that, similar to the new football practice facility, future expansion could be a way of activating the student intramural fields with the existing infrastructure.
- xiv. Board Vice Chair de las Cuevas-Diaz agreed that this would be a good opportunity to further develop existing areas on campus. Committee Chair Weatherford noted that this has been done in Miami as well.
- xv. Dr. Hecht added that, if multiple locations were to open, we would need them to be on the edges of campus near existing parking facilities in order to expand accessibility and parking availability.

- xvi. Dr. Hecht displayed a graphic of the “Nine Dimensions of Wellness,” connecting this initiative to the benefits to the physical, social, emotional, and perhaps spiritual dimensions. She mentioned opportunities for student employment at this facility as another benefit.
- xvii. Dr. Hecht and Committee Chair Weatherford expressed anticipation for around a 1,200-person cap on membership per location, although we would start slow with around 800-900 members at first. Committee Chair Weatherford added that this will be an efficient number due to the daily availability of classes. Dr. Hecht concluded by noting that class registration will be done through an app and that there will be a fee for missed classes.

g. FSU Flying High Circus Update

- i. Dr. Hecht gave the Board updates on the FSU Circus tent, stating that the new temporary tent was delivered in March.
- ii. The Circus is scheduled to hold performances during three weekends in October, instead of only two weekends.

h. Post-Incident Review

- i. Dr. Hecht began by describing the Belongings Recovery Process, which was an effort to return lost items to those who were forced to evacuate the Student Union and surrounding classroom buildings following the April 17th shooting at the Student Union. This collaborative effort was led by volunteers from the Divisions of Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Campus Facilities.
- ii. Another initiative led by volunteers from the Division of Student Affairs was “Community at the Courtyards,” which took place at the Askew Student Life Courtyard, a central hub on campus close to FSU Counseling and Psychological Services. Some highlights include on-call counseling services, appearances from the

Victim Advocate Program, therapy animals from local hospitals, Paint-A-Pot, games, and creative activities for students.

- iii. Over 8,000 students attended Community at the Courtyards. This week-long event proved to be healing for both students and faculty.
- iv. These events overlapped with FSU Senior Week, during which Student Affairs collaborated with members from the Senior Class Council, sponsored the annual Senior Breakfast, held a chalking event, passed out “Class of 2025” tee shirts, and held the annual Senior Toast at the Civic Center. Over 2,000 seniors attended at least one event during Senior Week.

i. Student Emergency Fund

- i. Following the events of April 17th, an emergency fund was created to provide assistance to students with unexpected financial difficulties. This initiative was very successful, with over 400 donors raising a total of over \$90,000.
- ii. Some noteworthy donors include Culver’s, Ology Brewing, Recess at CollegeTown, the Florida Blue Foundation, and several Panhellenic chapters from schools across the country. A local Girl Scout Troop also donated over 700 boxes of cookies.

j. Student Group Spotlight: FSU Medical Response Unit

- i. Dr. Hecht expressed her gratitude for Florida State’s Medical Response Unit (MRU), who provide emergency medical services to the FSU community during weekdays and at special events. Members of MRU go on to enter the medical field or give back to the community in some way. Dr. Hecht introduced Mike Stewart-Meza as the Program Manager of MRU.
- ii. Mr. Stewart-Meza introduced himself to the Board and gave an overview of what their membership entails: each member fills out an application (280 applied this year,

36 were accepted), then goes through one year of training and testing before beginning to serve the campus.

- iii. Mr. Stewart-Meza listed some of the settings in which MRU commonly assists the university: IM sports, on-call emergencies, FSU club and varsity sporting events. The program has been largely successful and has a great reputation, with similar organizations from other universities reaching out for guidance.
- iv. Mr. Stewart-Meza described MRU volunteers as smart, driven, dedicated, kind, and caring. He also mentioned that most of their students continue their education at medical school, nursing school, PA school, and other advanced programs. Mr. Stewart-Meza introduced Bryce Couey as the Student Director of MRU.
- v. Mr. Couey expressed that MRU was horrified and saddened due to the events of April 17th, but grateful to step up and serve FSU in this capacity. He also introduced those present with him today; **Field supervisors:** Ashley Franklin, Sarah Bryan, **Crew Leaders:** Kyle Martin and Nick Arnold, **Responders:** Ely Nieves, Samantha Mast, Gil Izquierdo, and Zach Hill. He also mentioned those who could not attend today's meeting: He concluded by expressing how proud he was in MRU's response to the events of April 17th.
- vi. Dr. Hecht thanked Mr. Couey for speaking and expressed her desire to highlight everyone who responded to the tragedy on campus, beginning with this team of students.
- vii. Committee Chair Weatherford echoed Dr. Hecht's gratitude, applauding their courage, the people they are, and what they represent.
- viii. Board Chair Collins expressed appreciation for each of the students' efforts and acknowledged the need for their work at FSU. He stated that he was amazed with the

program's progress and growth over time. He concluded by encouraging Dr. Hecht to share more of DSA's efforts with the Board in the future.

- ix. President McCullough expressed his appreciation for the Division of Student Affairs relative to their post-incident initiatives, both at Community in the Courtyards and throughout campus. He felt that these efforts were precisely what the community needed at the time.
- x. Trustee Jones concluded by thanking the Division of Student Affairs for all their efforts during the final weeks of the Spring 2025 semester.

IV. Open Forum for Trustees

Committee Chair Weatherford asked the Board if there was anything they would like to discuss in the Open Forum. There was no further discussion.

V. Adjournment

Board Vice Chair de las Cuevas-Diaz motioned to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Dale seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.