

**Special Full Board Meeting  
April 2, 2026  
Minutes**

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**Board Meeting****9:00 a.m.**

The public was provided with information on the UWF Board of Trustees website to attend this public meeting virtually through Zoom Webinar.

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the UWF Board of Trustees was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Rebecca Matthews.

**II. Roll Call**

Chair Matthews asked Kristie Johnson to conduct roll call. Trustees Paul Bailey, Trista Bennett, Ed Fleming, Janice Gilley, Kevin Mason, Rebecca Matthews, Rachel Moya, Kishane Patel, Heather Riddell, Ashley Ross, Zack Smith and Chris Young attended virtually.

Others in attendance included:

Manny Diaz, Jr., President; Jaromy Kuhl, Senior Vice President and Provost; Clifford Humphrey, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives; Tori Bennett, Interim Vice President of University Advancement; Dan Lucas, Vice President of Finance and Administration; Mary Anderson, Vice President of Academic Engagement and Student Affairs; Dave Scott, Associate Vice President for Athletics; Jamie Sprague, Senior Associate VP, Human Resources; Julie Sheppard, Interim General Counsel; Cass Boatwright, Assistant Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Alex Smith, Director of External Affairs; Matt Packard, Chief Compliance Officer; Angela Bryan, Assistant Vice President, Planning and Institutional Performance; Anna Lochas, Director of Events; and Kristie Johnson, Board of Trustees Liaison.

**III. Greeting**

Chair Matthews welcomed everyone to the special meeting and thanked them for their time. She congratulated Vice-Chair Young for the birth of his twins.

**IV. Public Comment**

Chair Matthews opened the floor for public comment. Mike Sanderson, resident of Brooklyn, NY, commented on action item, BOT-1: Discussion and Action on UWF Athletic Conference Change.

**V. New Business****A. Action Items****1. BOT-1: Discussion and Action on UWF Athletic Conference Change**

President Diaz and Athletic Director, Dave Scott, presented a request for the board to approve the University of West Florida Athletics to

join the Atlantic Sun Conference and the United Athletic Conference, and to begin the transition to NCAA Division I starting in fall 2026.

Chair Matthews asked for a motion to authorize UWF to move to NCAA Division I, joining the United Athletic and Atlantic Sun Conferences and execute all required agreements to effectuate those transfers.

- i. Motion by: Trustee Young
- ii. Seconded by: Trustee Smith

Trustee Riddell voiced concerns from the faculty, including hiring of staff to monitor the academic progress of athletes that fit the new schedules as well as enhanced communication with faculty of NCAA requirements, makeup exams, proctoring requirements and student travel. President Diaz and Mr. Scott addressed the concerns and Trustee Riddell thanked them for adding additional insight into academic support.

- iii. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **VI. Good of the Order**

Chair Matthews identified that business had been concluded. She mentioned the next in-person Board of Trustees meeting on campus April 23<sup>rd</sup>. President Diaz invited all to the Press Conference scheduled for 11:00 a.m. at the Field House. Chair Matthews asked if the board members had any additional business to discuss. No other business was discussed.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

**9:19 a.m.**

With no other business to discuss, Chair Matthews adjourned the meeting at 9:19 a.m.