**Board of Trustees**
**UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA**

# Full Board Meeting
# Thursday, June 18, 2026
# UWF Conference Center
# 9:00 a.m. CST

## Minutes

**Board Meeting** **9:02 a.m.**

The public was provided with information on the UWF Board of Trustees website to attend this public meeting in person at the UWF Conference Center or virtually through Zoom Webinar.

### I. Call to Order

The meeting of the UWF Board of Trustees was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Rebecca Matthews.

### II. Roll Call

Chair Matthews asked Kristie Johnson to conduct roll call. Trustees Ed Fleming, Janice Gilley, Kevin Mason, Rebecca Matthews, Rachel Moya, Kishane Patel, Heather Riddell, Chris Roney, Ashley Ross, Eli Schatz, Zack Smith, Gordon "Flash" Sprague and Chris Young were in attendance. A quorum was present.

Others in attendance included:

Manny Diaz, Jr., President; Dr. Jaromy Kuhl, Senior Vice President and Provost; Dr. Clifford Humphrey, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives; Tori Bennett, Vice President of University Advancement; Dan Lucas, Vice President of Finance and Administration; Dr. Mary Anderson, Vice President of Academic Engagement and Student Affairs; Alex Smith, Associate Vice President of Governmental and External Affairs; Dave Scott, Associate Vice President for Athletics; Jamie Sprague, Senior Associate VP, Human Resources; David Fugett, General Counsel; Cass Boatwright, Assistant Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Jeffrey Djerlek, Senior Associate Vice President for Finance and University Controller; Dr. Dallas Snider, Vice-Provost; Dr. Angela Bryan, Assistant Vice President for Planning and Institutional Performance and Accreditation Liaison Officer; 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 welcomed Trustees Roney and Sprague to their first in-person board meeting, Judge Paul Bailey, and Nicole Gislason, Director of the Haas Center. Chair Matthews acknowledged the passing of

Professor Westcott from the Department of Psychology as well as Peter Miller's retirement. During her greeting, the chair also allowed Chief Jackson and his officers to present the board and cabinet with the new UWF Police Department challenge coins. She also thanked the staff and UWF Historic Trust for hosting the board at a reception the evening prior to the meeting.

## IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## V. Approval of Minutes

Chair Matthews reminded the committee members that they had been given the opportunity ahead of time to review the minutes of the April 23, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting. Chair Matthews asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented if there were no changes or corrections.

Motion by: Trustee Riddell
Seconded by: Trustee Schatz
Motion passed unanimously.

## VI. Reports

### A. Chairman's Report

Chair Matthews added to her greeting that she would attend a different reception for the UWF Historic Trust that evening for the new America250 exhibit and gave an update to the Board on her recent activities, including a meeting with the SGA cabinet.

### B. President's Report

President Diaz presented an update on University Strategic Directions and recent University initiatives including student and faculty honors, construction progress on the Darrell Gooden Stadium and Synapse building, and the Pensacola Museum of History's "Road to Revolution" exhibit.

### C. 2026 Legislative Session Update

Alex Smith reviewed the 2026 Legislative Session, UWF budget and project awards, and plans for lobbying moving forward. Trustee Fleming requested talking points to avoid line item vetoes for our interests. The President, Trustee Gilley, and Trustee Patel commented and offered praises on the good work done this year. The President also encouraged all to tell the UWF story to assist with the legislative efforts.

### D. Provost's Report

Dr. Kuhl briefed the board on our performance on Board of Governors Performance Based Funding (PBF) Metrics and announced UWF's standings within the State University System, finishing second among all other Universities. He also explained the PBF 2.0 model and warned that all university scores are expected to decline with the redesigned benchmarks and metrics. The President added that with the Board of Governors' new scale, all universities would be starting fresh, a new baseline established, and the BOG will want to see new growth across areas. He also lauded the work of the Provost's Office along with the faculty and staff that resulted in UWF's finish among preeminent universities.

E. Faculty Report

Trustee Riddell presented the recent activities and accomplishments of UWF Faculty members.

F. Student Report

Trustee Schatz commented briefly on student activities since the last meeting including his recent visit to FSU in May for the Florida Student Association meeting where the group of student government presidents decided to highlight Processes Worth Replicating between universities. He also shared some of the goals for the coming year including connection and communication, restructuring the senate meeting and bylaws to advocate better for the student voice, school spirit, and leadership development.

G. Program Report: Haas Center

Nicole Gislason, Executive Director of the Haas Center, presented a report on workforce data and economic impact analysis results for the Florida Panhandle.

H. Board of Trustees Committee Reports

1. Academic Affairs Committee

Trustee Smith reported on two action items and two information items from the Academic Affairs Committee meeting held May 21, 2026 and recommended approval of both action items in the consent agenda.

2. Audit and Compliance Committee

Vice Chair Young reported that the Audit and Compliance Committee met on May 21, 2026 and recommended approval of all ten action items from that committee in the consent agenda later in the meeting.

3. Finance, Facilities, & Operations Committee

Trustee Moya reported that the Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee met on Thursday, May 21, 2026. The committee had two action items and one information item on their agenda with the action items reflected on the consent agenda for the current full board meeting.

4. Student Affairs Committee

Trustee Roney reported that the Student Affairs Committee met on May 21, 2026 and recommended approval of the one action item from that meeting on the consent agenda later in the meeting.

The meeting recessed at 10:29am and reconvened at 10:40am.

I. Direct Support Organization Reports

1. UWF Business Enterprises, Inc.

Vice Chair Young reviewed the April 27, 2026 BEI board meeting with trustees as well as the performance status for contracts.

2. UWF Foundation, Inc.

Trustee Ross provided updates from University Advancement and from the UWF Alumni Association. She reviewed the financial standing, reported on the Foundation Board meeting held June 17, 2026 and summarized committee activities. Trustee Ross requested that the full UWF Foundation Board report be provided as an addendum to these minutes.

3. UWF Historic Trust, Inc.

Chair Matthews summarized a report from the UWF Historic Trust Meeting held on May 18, 2026 which included financial standing, board appointments, and committee activities.

## VII. Unfinished Business

A. Consent Agenda

1. ACA-1: Specialized Admissions Status Reaffirmation
2. ACA-2: Tenure as a Condition of Employment
3. AUD-1: Internal Audit Report – Purchasing Card Audit (Q1 2025-26)
4. AUD-2: Internal Audit Report – Purchasing Card Audit (Q2 2025-26)
5. AUD-3: Internal Audit Report – Student Hazing Prevention
6. AUD-4: Internal Audit Report – DAVID Internal Controls and Data Security
7. AUD-5: Internal Audit Report – IIA Cybersecurity Topical Requirement
8. AUD-6: BOT Audit and Compliance Committee Charter – Proposed Revisions
9. AUD-7: IAMC Charter – Proposed Revisions
10. AUD-8: Revised 2025/26 and 2026/27 IAMC Work Plans

11. AUD-9: 2025/26 and 2026/27 IAMC Resource Plan
12. AUD-10: Auditor General Audit Report – UWF Financial Statement Audit June 30, 2025
13. FFO-1: Approval of FY2027/28 - 2031/32 Capital Improvement Plan
14. FFO-2: University Carryforward Spending Plan & Fixed Capital Outlay Budget
15. STU-1: Amendment to UWF Regulation-3.042, Admission of International Students

Chair Matthews asked if anyone wished to pull an item for further discussion from the consent agenda. Seeing none, Chair Matthews asked for a motion to adopt the recommendations of the Academic Affairs, Audit and Compliance, Finance, Facilities, and Operations, and Student Affairs Committees as reflected on the consent agenda.

Motion by: Trustee Fleming
Seconded by: Trustee Roney
Motion passed unanimously.

## VIII. New Business

A. Action Items

1. BOT-1: Historic Trust Board New Appointments and Reappointment

Tori Bennett reviewed the Historic Trust Board Appointments and Reappointment.

Chair Matthews asked for a motion to approve appointments to the UWF Historic Trust Board of Directors beginning July 1, 2025.

Motion by: Trustee Sprague
Seconded by: Trustee Schatz
Motion passed unanimously.

2. BOT-2: Foundation Board of Directors New Appointments

Tori Bennett reviewed the Foundation Board of Directors New Appointments.

Chair Matthews asked for a motion to approve appointments to the UWF Foundation Board of Directors beginning July 1, 2025.

Motion by: Trustee Mason
Seconded by: Trustee Schatz
Motion passed unanimously.

3. BOT-3: Resolution in Recognition of Distinguished Service

Chair Matthews praised Paul Bailey's work as a former Trustee, congratulated him on his appointment to the bench, and asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2026.4 in Recognition of Distinguished Service to the University of West Florida.

Judge Bailey commented briefly.

Motion by: Trustee Smith
Seconded by: Trustee Patel
Motion passed unanimously.

4. BOT-4: Tenure

Provost Kuhl presented a request with approval from the President to approve tenure for four members of the UWF faculty.

Chair Matthews asked for a motion to approve tenure for the nominees.

Motion by: Trustee Smith
Seconded by: Trustee Schatz
Motion passed unanimously.

5. BOT-5: DSO Operating Budgets for FY2026/27 and DSO Resources Utilized

Jeffrey Djerlek, Senior Associate Vice President for Finance and University Controller reviewed the DSO operating budget and resources utilized for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Chair Matthews asked for a motion to approve the Direct Support Operations' annual budgets and estimated university resources utilized for fiscal year 2026-2027.

Motion by: Trustee Mason
Seconded by: Trustee Sprague
Motion passed unanimously.

6. BOT-6: Estimated FY 2026-2027 Consolidated Operating Budget

Jeffrey Djerlek reviewed the estimated 2026-2027 Consolidated Operating Budget for the board.

Chair Matthews asked for a motion to approve the estimated FY 2026-2027 Consolidated Operating Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, including both appropriated and non-appropriated funds.

Motion by: Trustee Fleming
Seconded by: Trustee Schatz
Motion passed unanimously.

7. BOT-7: Revision of BOT-14 Presidential Evaluation Policy

General Counsel David Fugett presented revisions to BOT-14 Presidential Evaluation Policy, a policy established in 2017 that had never been revised. He thanked Trustee Gilley, chair of the Presidential Performance Evaluation and Metrics Committee, for guiding the process and thanked Trustee Riddell for helpful comments that were incorporated into the final draft.

Chair Matthews asked for a motion to approve revisions to BOT-14 Presidential Evaluation Policy as presented.

Motion by: Trustee Gilley

Seconded by: Trustee Schatz

Motion passed unanimously.
Trustee Gilley requested a waiver/extension of the July 1st due date to establish an evaluation instrument this year given the proximity of the deadline to the June 18 meeting. Chair Matthews approved an extension to Trustee Gilley and the PPEM committee as requested, for this year only.

8. BOT-8: Charter School Update and Approval

President Diaz clarified the request as a recommendation to approve an application for a charter school that has been reviewed by the Florida Charter School Innovation Center at Miami Dade College (same institute that reviews for state charter school commission and under agreement UWF has with them). This board action allows UWF to authorize the school but UWF will not operate the school. There would be a shared use agreement with the school to allow Somerset to operate on the UWF campus. Responsibilities of UWF as authorizer are oversight and compliance. Dan Lucas, Vice President of Finance and Administration, CFO, presented a request to approve the newly received application from Somerset Academy. The licensing agreement would allow them to add facilities and operate the school. Dr. Karina Iber, a UWF alumna and Somerset Academy representative, and Alex Cordoves, a representative of Academica, attended in person to review their request. Dr. Bernie Montero, Suzette Ruiz, Julio Robaina, Danai Amaya, Adri Lima, Sarah Frye, and Frankie Mestre were available from Somerset and Academica via Zoom in order to answer questions from Trustees.

Chair Matthews asked for a motion to approve the Charter School application for Somerset Academy.

Motion by: Trustee Roney
Seconded by: Trustee Sprague

Trustee Fleming commented in support of School Choice. Trustee Gilley commented in support of this action. Trustee Sprague commented on the success of the PSC charter school and in support of the action. Trustee Riddell raised several questions which were answered. Trustee Gilley asked if there had been any other outside interest from Charter Schools to which Dan Lucas advised there was not. Trustee Sprague asked who the target market was for the charter school to which Dan Lucas advised UWF students were a target.

Motion passed unanimously.

B. Information Items

1. INFO-1: Accreditation Update

Vice-Provost Dallas Snider provided an update on the accreditation status with HLC, with a site visit expected in summer of 2027 and completion possible in late 2027 or early 2028. UWF maintains accreditation with SACSCOC.

2. INFO-2: 2026 UWF Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation Effectiveness Survey

Dr. Angela Bryan, Assistant Vice President for Planning and Institutional Performance and Accreditation Liaison Officer, introduced the evaluation process and instrument.

## IX. Good of the Order

Chair Matthews mentioned the next Board of Trustees Meeting to be held August 13th at the Museum of Commerce, Argo Rally at Seville Quarter, and the first home football game of the season on August 27th. Chair Matthews asked if the board members had any additional business to discuss. No other business was discussed.

## X. Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, Chair Matthews adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m. CST.

**Trustee Ross DSO Report**
**BOT Board Meeting, June 18, 2026**

**Advancement Report** -

**FY26 How Are We Doing:**

- Total New Cash, New Pledges and New Planned Gifts since July 1, 2025 - as reported to the Board as of March 11th - **$10,460,693**
- Annual Fund: **$2,357,621** (representing 8,285 donors) - up $341,658 prior year to date
- **577** Nautilus level donors (donors at $1,000 or more) - up 100 prior year to date

**Some Recent Gift Highlights:**

- $200,000 gift from Site & Utility LLC to support the Athletics Excellence fund.
- $155,000 gift from Ascension Sacred Heart of Pensacola to support the Ascension Sacred Heart Immersive Education Initiative.
- $25,000 gift from Wells Fargo Foundation to support the Small Business Development Center.
- $15,000 gift from Walmart to support the Argo Pantry.

**Foundation Board Updates -**

The full board met on Wednesday, June 17th and affirmed all the actions taken at the committee level.

ACTION ITEM #1: The board ratified the Investment Committee's action to rebalance the portfolio by reducing equities from eight different investments and moving $1 million to Doubleline Low Duration and $1.5 million to PIMCO Short Term Instl.

ACTION ITEM #2: The board ratified the Investment Committee's action to accept the recommendation of CAPTRUST by investing $2 million in The Resolute Fund VII, L.P.

ACTION ITEM #3: The board ratified the Audit Budget Committee's action to approve the revised 2026 Summer projects to include the $400,000 fire alarm upgrades that will be installed across campus.

ACTION ITEM #4: The board ratified the Audit Budget Committee's action to approve the FY27 Housing Operating Budget as presented.

ACTION ITEM #5: The board ratified the Audit Budget Committee's action to approve the FY27 Foundation Operating Budget as presented.

ACTION ITEM #6: The board ratified the Nominating Committee's action to approve Jason Lombardo, Debbie Ritchie, and Lewis Bear III for the three Presidential appointments and Lane Harper for the Alumni appointment to the Foundation Board of Directors.

ACTION ITEM #7: The board ratified the Nominating Committee's action to approve the Slate of Officers as presented.

The board also recognized outgoing board members for their committed service including Connie Bookman, James Hosman, and Bill Rone.

**Alumni Report** -

**Spring Semester Events/Initiatives:**

- Alumni Events hosted in May included local happy hours with Pensacola Young Professionals and Pensacola State College Alumni Association, a reception at the annual TeCMEN Industry Day on Okaloosa Island in partnership with The Haas Center, and a special on-campus Grad Celebration for the class of 2026.
- Alumni Association partnered with Athletics for a new "Argos All Access" event on May 12 - alumni met with coaches, toured facilities, viewed the stadium construction site, and heard an update from staff promoting UWF's new Division I status and fundraising campaign.
- Since launching the Philanthropy Cords program in Fall 2025, the program has exceeded expectations. We have received 415 gifts through the initiative, more than doubling our student giving goal.
- All Spring 2026 grads were emailed a personalized, UWF-branded video clip of their walk across the stage thanks to the Alumni Association and SGA. The clips were professionally produced by a company called StageClip. 1,538 clips were created and shared by our newest alumni and their families, with over 56,000 views on social media.

**Upcoming UWF Alumni Events:**

- June 17, 2026 - UWF Alumni Party Deck at the Blue Wahoos Baseball Game
- August 6, 2026 - Summer Sendoff with Undergraduate Admissions in Miramar Beach for incoming freshman and parents
- August 12, 2026 - Argo Rally with Athletics