



Presidential Search

**Presidential Search Committee Initial Meeting
August 22, 2025
Zoom Webinar
Minutes**

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Search Committee Meeting

1:00 p.m.

The public was provided with information on the UWF Presidential Search Committee Meeting website to join the public meeting virtually through Zoom Webinar. The meeting was accessible to the public via the presidential search website, as required by BOG Reg. 1.002(1)(c).

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- a. The meeting of the UWF Presidential Search Committee was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Chair Rebecca Matthews.
- b. Chair Matthews asked Candace Freeman to conduct roll call. Alan Levin, Ashley Ross, Ashton Hayward, Collier Merrill, David Peaden, David Ramsey, Ginger Madden, Heather Riddell, Kenneth Ford, Paul Mixon, Rachel Moya, Sabrina McLaughlin, Terrence Shashaty, Trista Bennett, and Zack Smith were in attendance.



Presidential Search

i. Others in attendance included:

1. Presidential Search Committee Staff Brittany Sherwood, Cass Boatwright, Jamie Sprague, and Candace Freeman; Willie Funk and Krisha Creal of Funk Associates; and Jason Gonzalez and Eric Reed of Lawson Huck and Gonzalez.

II. Public Comment

- a. Chair Matthews opened the floor for public comment. Candace Freeman identified that there were no members of the public that wished to give comments.

III. Introductions and Search Committee Charge

- a. Chair Matthews welcomed everyone to the meeting, announced Zack Smith as the Presidential Search Committee Chair and thanked the members of the Search Committee. Chair Matthews then presented the Search Committee members with the Charge, outlining the committee's purpose, scope, and responsibilities for finding and recommending candidates for the University's President.

IV. Sunshine Law Overview

- a. Jamie Sprague presented an [overview of the Florida Sunshine Law](#).

V. Confidentiality Requirements

- a. Jason Gonzalez and Eric Reed explained the confidentiality requirements of the search process.

VI. Introduction of Search Process

- a. Willie Funk explained the process to be followed in the search for the next University president.

VII. Attributes Desired for the Next President Discussion

- a. Willie Funk polled the committee members on attributes they felt were important in the presidential search.

VIII. Questions

- a. There were no questions.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Chair Matthews thanked those in attendance for their participation. With no other business to discuss, Chair Matthews adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.