

University of Florida Psychology
March 27th, 2026 Psychology Advisory Board Meeting

The mission of the Advisory Board is to support and advocate on behalf of the Department of Psychology and to support the Department's achievement of its goals through Engagement, Leadership, and Philanthropy.

Meeting Location: Zoom/In Person

In Attendance:

Board Members: Amanda Balkhi (President), Martha Zlokovich (Secretary/President Elect), Dianne Allen (Philanthropy Committee Chair), Peter Dodzik (Leadership Committee Chair), Chris Pitisci (Engagement Committee Chair), Kristy Johnson, Matt Michaels, Eric Rudich, Meredith Wikstrom, Angie Winn, Anthony Puente (Past President)

UF Representatives: Julia Graber (Department Chair), Lacie Klann (Advancement), Willie DeLeon (Department Vice Chair), Kaylee August (Advancement, new Assistant Director of Operations and Engagement)

Future Meetings: Summer 2026 via Zoom

Introduction: Welcome and changes in accessibility in print

1. Department Update & Accessibility – Graber & Scott

- a. Advancement is supporting an infrastructure improvement in the department including asbestos abatement and space improvements.
- b. Heartfelt thanks from Dr. Graber to the UFPAB for all of their contributions
- c. UF Psych ranked number 3 in US News & World Report in the nation
 - i. Marina Klimenko – 2025 Exemplary Online Teaching Award – Large Enrollment Strategies
 - ii. Feihong Wang – 2025 Exemplary Online Teaching Award – Instructional Innovation
- d. Site Visit completed for Behavioral Analysis at BS, MS, PhD Levels – 7 years
- e. Counseling Program will begin their process in summer
- f. Enrollment – Spring 2026 at 2105 students across programs, still one of the largest majors and up 25 students since last year (UF Fall Enrollment was raised to 7500))
- g. Psychology Grants – 23 Externally Funded (19 additional awards) – 75% of Faculty have External Grants including 6/8 Assistant Professors
- h. Recognition of Scholarship
 - i. Roberto Abreu – Mid Career Award
 - ii. Chris Podlesnik – SABA Award for Scientific Translation
 - iii. Shanting Chen – Early-Stage Investigator Award

- iv. Nicholas Coles – Rising Star
 - v. Taewon Kim – Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Award
- i. Faculty Searches
 - i. BCN – Close to sending official offer letter
 - ii. Social – Negotiating with Candidate
 - iii. Counseling – Negotiating with Candidate
 - 1. Still need to hire a licensed candidate to fulfill APA requirements prior to the accreditation process
 - 2. Some cross over support from the CWC
 - iv. One open TT position in the fall
- j. Admissions
 - i. Graduate Program 13/20 accepted offers so far
 - ii. Concerns about academic jobs and perhaps jobs in general
- k. Other Updates
 - i. Organizational Changes – Approved a new Fiscal Assistant & requesting an additional Academic Advisor
 - ii. Will be distributing \$150,000 awards to students next year
 - iii. Ring – 12-month fellowship should be available soon
 - iv. Donations were given to update the Advising Space and Entry areas
 - v. Psy Chi Awards – will check on scholarships and grants awarded
- l. Other Challenges
 - i. Numerous new systems being rolled out at the same time
 - ii. Numerous changes to deadlines and course postings
 - iii. Faculty searches have taken longer
 - iv. High level of “change fatigue”
 - v. Accessibility compliance have been added to the faculty workload
 - 1. Department websites need to be updated and in compliance by April 24th or they will go down
- m. Jennifer Scott
 - i. New Branding Policies for all Websites
 - ii. Migrating to the Mercury Theme Lab sites (roughly 12 of them)
 - iii. Site Improve
 - 1. Will help find accessibility issues (poor attachments, ADA, etc.)
 - iv. Recite Me
 - 1. Accessibility toolbar
 - a. Screen reader
 - b. Customizable pages to user preferences
 - c. 100 different language translation
 - v. Team is making checklists to ensure compliance
 - vi. There will be an announcement coming soon when new site is available
 - vii. AI questions – how much can be done through this format

1. Amanda volunteered to update all archived minutes if Style Guide is available (will need to be done for social media posts as well)
2. Archived notes will still need to be available
 - a. Should UFPAB use AI for minutes moving forward
3. Wall of Fame Project will also need to be brought into compliance
- viii. Huge Thanks to Jennifer Scott for all of her help and support to the UFPAB
- n. Facilities Improvements
 - i. UFPAB to send “Thank You” notes to donors or engage in-person through a combined UFPAB event
 - ii. ADA compliance for the elevator and HVAC systems, built new fire doors and then removed blocking doors in front of elevators
- o. Follow up Questions
 - i. Clinical Faculty Members
 - ii. Hiring New Faculty Members with Licenses of License Eligible
 1. This will happen with the new Counseling Hire
 - iii. Dealing With Rising Costs
 1. Office of Research handles this but the goal is to get renovations done to create more usable space
 - iv. Terminal Master’s Degree – APA just released its Model Licensure Act

2. Committee & Task Force Updates

- a. Leadership Committee
 - i. Student Survey Results
 1. Response from 2,100 students (14 respondents)
 2. Evening and SPS (Thursday at 4:05pm are best times)
 3. Topic Interests
 - a. Neuropsychology
 - b. Getting into Grad School in Psych
 - c. Forensic Psychology
 - d. UFPAB suggested AI topic
 - ii. New Membership Search
 1. 2 candidates have been contacted to gauge interests that comport with survey results
 - iii. Career Connections Center
 1. Coordinated with Zita G. will work to share resources and recruit speakers
 - iv. Results Board Survey
 1. Results indicated three main areas of concern
 - a. Recruiting new members that are representative of the larger student body
 - b. Recruiting new members with breadth of careers such that it can be informative of potential avenues and opportunities both within and outside the field of psychology

- c. Ensuring board members are prepared for meetings
- b. Philanthropy Committee
 - i. Giving Day – Feedback that the differing platforms were appreciated and led to increase in engagement
 - ii. 144 with 162 gifts and met the goal for unlocking the \$20,000 Challenge
 - iii. \$624,669 total money raised at Giving Day (out of 14,000 total UF donors)
 - iv. We were featured in CLAS Magazine because of our achievements
- c. Engagement Committee
 - i. Updates – New Initiative to reach out to UF Psychology Alumni to find Internships in Florida, Georgia and Alabama areas
 - ii. Standardizing the process for recruitment
 - 1. May need to go through Legal Department/Deans
- d. Hall of Fame
 - i. Mockups for several members have been created
 - ii. Project is still a priority and on hold but will be moving
- e. Alumni Videos
 - i. Dianne is going to follow up on people who have offered to commit to recording a video
- f. Advancement Updates
 - i. Giving Day
 - 1. 8th Year of Doing Giving Day
 - a. \$11 Million Raised
 - b. \$3.2 Million for CLAS
 - c. 1077 Donors 1372 Gifts CLAS
 - d. \$629,699 total for Psych including Balki Awards, Kristy's Firm and Dianne Estate Donation
 - e. \$100,00 for Facilities Improvement
 - f. 144 Donors and 162 different gifts
 - ii. Advancement is in the Next Campaign (Campaign 5)
 - 1. Trying for \$6 Billion
 - iii. Recruiting New Advancement Partner for our Department
 - iv. Recruiting Regional Fund-Raising Staff as well

3. AI Listening Session

- a. Amanda Balkhi Presentation

4. Leadership Transition

- a. Amanda Balkhi – Moved to Past President
- b. Martha Zolovich – Moved to President
- c. Peter Dodzik – Moved to President Elect