

Shylan E. Scott, M.A., Ph.D.

October 14, 2026

Search Committee
Florida State University
c/o Greenwood & Asher

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am excited to express my interest in the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs position at Florida State University. With a career rooted in student-centered leadership, I bring a depth of experience in housing and residence life, crisis response, facilities management, financial stewardship, and strategic planning. My work has consistently focused on creating caring, responsive environments that support student success and institutional excellence. The following summary outlines how my experience aligns with the responsibilities and expectations of the position.

Strategic & Operational Leadership

I bring extensive experience in leading complex, multi-functional units within student affairs. My work has included policy development and protocol refinement across a range of institutional priorities. This year, I led efforts to implement state-mandated opioid antagonist training for Resident Assistants, contributed to a comprehensive review of the university's student death protocol, and updated procedures for isolation housing and shelter-in-place. As a member of executive-level committees, I've supported high-level decision-making and coordinated responses to complex issues, maintaining clear communication with diverse stakeholders and ensuring compliance. My ombuds experience further enhances my ability to communicate clearly, foster trust, resolve conflict, and promote transparent, collaborative leadership.

Crisis & Emergency Response

My commitment to student safety and institutional readiness is reflected in my leadership across university-wide crisis response efforts. I serve on the University's Safety & Security Committee, Threat Assessment Team, and Care & Intervention Team, coordinating responses for students of concern in close partnership with campus stakeholders. These roles have strengthened my ability to lead cross-functional coordination during high-impact incidents. Through on-call rotations, I've supported residential and off-campus populations, often serving as the first point of contact during critical moments. Whether responding to a student death, public health threat, or weather-related emergency, I ensure timely communication, appropriate notifications, and compassionate care. I also contribute to refining protocols related to threat assessment and emergency response, reinforcing my commitment to proactive planning, clear communication, and empathetic leadership.

Facilities & Infrastructure Oversight

Facilities management has been a consistent focus of my work, supported by years of collaboration with University Facilities, Maintenance, Custodial Services, and Human Resources. Together, we advanced service delivery and student satisfaction by shifting from routine maintenance to a stewardship model—creating residential spaces that foster pride, belonging, and well-being. My contributions include serving on building committees, participating in design charrettes, and guiding the opening of new residential buildings to ensure student-centered design and operations. I've also helped shape policies that promote sustainable, responsive facilities practices aligned with institutional values and student needs.

Occupancy Management

Occupancy management has been a consistent focus of my work, supported by years of collaboration across housing operations. Over the years, I have managed assignments, room changes, vacancy billing, forecasting, and marketing. At UVA, I've worked closely with the Assignments Team to manage appeals, room conflicts, and transitions, always prioritizing equity, responsiveness, and policy alignment to create environments where students feel supported. My understanding of occupancy strategy is informed by my professional experience and in my earliest exposure to enrollment systems, working in a childcare center during college. There, I observed that enrollment was about matching availability with individual needs, ensuring continuity of care, and maintaining a nurturing environment. Occupancy management along with marketing, compliance, and strategic forecasting is essential to an auxiliary's success.

Financial Management

In addition to my leadership in student affairs, I have extensive experience in financial management and operational oversight. As Associate Dean and Director of Residence Life, I manage a self-sustaining annual operating budget through strategic forecasting and resource stewardship, ensuring compliance with institutional protocols, maintaining clear audit records, strengthening financial reporting systems, and ensuring compliance. I view fiscal management as a strategic tool for advancing institutional goals. My approach emphasizes transparency, collaborative decision-making, and aligning resources with priorities to ensure long-term sustainability. This philosophy has guided my work in managing reserves, supporting future planning, and maintaining financial stability.

Communication & Connection

One of the most rewarding aspects of my leadership has been building strategic relationships across a complex institution. In supervising staff, I lead with a belief in their potential, fostering a culture of trust, growth, and accountability. My leadership is grounded in mutual respect, transparency, and collaboration—principles that have strengthened our capacity to serve students with excellence.

Florida State University's commitment to academic excellence, environments of care, and student empowerment deeply resonates with my professional values. I would be honored to contribute to your leadership team and help advance the Division of Student Affairs' strategic goals. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how my experience, leadership style, and strategic approach can contribute to Florida State University's continued success. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to your campus community and help shape the next chapter of student affairs excellence.

Sincerely,



Shylan E. Scott, M.A., Ph.D.

Enclosure: Resume