

MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY / STUDENT AFFAIRS
TURLINGTON BUILDING
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 26, 2007

Mr. Charlie Edwards convened the joint meeting of the Performance and Accountability Committee and the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Governors at 2:00 p.m., in Room 1721, Turlington Building, Tallahassee, Florida, September 26, 2007, with the following members present: Commissioner Jeanine Blomberg, Dr. Arlen Chase, Ann Duncan, Dr. Stanley Marshall, Frank Martin, Sheila McDevitt, Lynn Pappas, Carolyn K. Roberts, Tico Perez, and Gus Stavros.

1. Access and Success Initiatives

Associate Vice Chancellor Dottie Minear explained that, despite being the fourth largest state, Florida ranked 46th in the number of bachelor's degrees per 1000 residents. She said that, nationally, 29% of the 25-64 year olds had the baccalaureate or higher; in the ten states with the highest gross domestic product per capita, 33% had the baccalaureate or higher. In Florida, 27% of the 25-64 year olds have these degrees, a gap that translates into \$180 billion annually in lower economic productivity than the top ten states. She said that Florida is at risk of falling further behind in the coming decades if we do not take aggressive action to increase the number of working adults with the baccalaureate or higher. She said that, in order to compete with other states and nations that are investing significantly in education, Florida will need at least 3.5 million adults with the baccalaureate by 2027, a million more than today. She discussed the increasing national and state workforce demand for employees with at least the baccalaureate degree and commented on the shifting demographics in Florida's workforce-age population, i.e., a growing number of traditionally underrepresented minorities and individuals from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

She acknowledged that the Board has a goal in its Strategic Plan of having more Floridians with the baccalaureate (or higher) degrees. To reach this goal will require raising high school graduation rates, closing the gaps for underrepresented groups, and providing financial access to economically disadvantaged students. She reviewed the actions underway by the Board of Governors and other national initiatives focused on student access and success. She noted that the Board had included \$113 million in the 2008-09 Legislative Budget Request for "student success" initiatives and \$20 million for an undergraduate performance funding initiative.

Dr. Minear reviewed data on baccalaureate degree production in the State University System and the undergraduate enrollment of underrepresented minority

and low-income students. She said that the percentages of baccalaureate degrees awarded to underrepresented minority and low-income students have grown as the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded has grown. She noted that it is also critical that students coming into the SUS from high school are ready to succeed in the SUS. Dr. Abele noted that Florida awarded \$11 million in financial aid to students with Pell Grants, while other states award as much as \$42 million in this need-based aid.

Dr. Minear also reviewed retention and graduation rates, noting that 62% of full-time, first-time-in-college students graduated within a six-year time period. She said this figure did not take into consideration part-time students taking a lighter course load. She noted the importance of analyzing why students in good standing were leaving.

Mrs. Roberts inquired as to when the change was made to focusing on six-year graduation data instead of four-year graduation data. Dr. Minear explained that the four-year path was not the normal path for so many students, and that IPEDs, the national data collection agency, had moved to using six-year data. Dr. Rosenberg added that there were 17 million students in higher education, of which only 3 million were "traditional" college students.

Dr. Rosenberg said that the student population in the SUS includes many students who are working and attending school part-time, so that it takes them longer to complete a degree. He said he did not want to lose students who needed to follow a slower track. Mr. Tripp, Trustee Board Chair, FAU, said they had done a survey and found that more than 65% of FAU students were attending part-time. There were students who had left FAU to go back to community college; some were working and supporting a family. He said students were taking three to four years to finish at the community college; he said the "2-plus-2" concept was a misnomer. Mr. Tripp commented that insufficient financial aid causes students to extend their time at the university. He recommended that the Board not put in place policies that would discourage students from working toward a degree.

Mr. Martin inquired whether the universities required summer school attendance. Dr. Minear reported that undergraduates who graduate from the SUS finish on average in 4.3 years. She said there is still a requirement for students to attend summer school at least once during their SUS enrollment. She said a problem for students is that there is no Bright Futures funding to cover summer term enrollment.

Ms. McDevitt inquired how long students could remain enrolled "at risk." Dr. Minear, upon consultation with several university representatives, said students usually could remain in this status for two semesters.

Dr. Minear mentioned that, in its Access and Diversity Report last year, the Student Affairs Committee indicated that university leaders should periodically review the effectiveness of institutional policies and programs designed to improve student

access, retention, and successful progression to graduation. University leaders were encouraged to identify where efficiencies could be gained and to leverage best practices to improve the educational attainment of all students, particularly students from traditionally underrepresented populations. She said that, in June, 2007, each university was asked to provide a brief written report addressing a series of general questions on this topic. Dr. Minear said that the reports reinforced many of the findings from last year. University representatives indicated that improvements could be attributed to multiple approaches undertaken at all phases of the access and success pipeline. She reported that more universities are consolidating and coordinating services under one umbrella, and that there is an increased emphasis on access and success in university strategic plans and more coordination across academic and student affairs units and full-campus involvement.

She said that some of the information provided in these reports had been used to draft an \$82 million Legislative Budget Request to help universities provide the services and programming which are needed to ensure achievement of the Board's goals by improving student advising, retention, and graduation, including increased need-based aid, targeted programs for "at-risk" students, and initiatives to encourage student integration into the campus community. Ms. Pappas commented that the universities might also need to focus on the declining high school graduation rates. Ms. McDevitt said that, from the work of the Governor's Access and Diversity Commission last year, it was evident that there should be an emphasis on students in middle school. It was important to make the best use of the dollars spent in programs such as the College Reach-Out Program (CROP).

Commissioner Blomberg described some of the programs and initiatives already underway in K-12, including initiatives in middle school. Ninth graders are now able to select major areas of study. She said it was important to find a way to increase rigor in the high schools. Mr. Edwards inquired whether students demonstrated better performance as a result of the choice of major areas of study. The Commissioner said this program had just been implemented this fall.

Mr. Edwards commented that, if need-based aid were increased, students would not have to work and could finish more quickly. He said the issue of need-based aid should be part of any discussion of Bright Futures. Ms. Duncan inquired whether there were any data available which showed that students had heard so much about how difficult it was to get into the universities that they were not even trying. The Commissioner said there were no such data, as far as she knew. Mr. Stavros said the Board needed to make sure that any student who wants to go to college can attend. The Board should continue to emphasize the importance of need-based student financial aid.

2. Consideration, Undergraduate Performance Measures

Mr. Edwards said the proposed undergraduate accountability measures for performance funding would establish a baseline from which to move forward. Dr. Dan Cohen-Vogel explained the model being developed to reward universities for addressing the Board's Strategic Plan goal of increasing the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded. He reviewed the factors being measured. He said the Legislature had funded a performance incentive model during the last Session, which Governor Crist had vetoed. Since the Session, staff had worked with the universities to improve the model. Dr. Cohen-Vogel said some of the universities were concerned about using a time-to-degree measure, as this would be biased against the institutions with more part-time students. He said there were also concerns expressed about the accuracy of the data. He said the model presented to the Board attempted to address the concerns expressed by the universities. He noted that the Pell grant recipients and underrepresented minorities were not necessarily the same group of students.

Mr. Edwards inquired how the measures related to the distribution of the \$20 million to the universities. Dr. Rosenberg said that this Committee should approve the measures and the Budget Committee would recommend the allocation of the money. He said the measures, adopted by this Committee, should be an adequate reflection of the Strategic Plan goals. Ms. McDevitt said the measures should be those that the Board deemed the most significant. She said the Board should also agree on the weightings. Mr. Edwards said the Performance and Accountability Committee needed further deliberations regarding the proposed model.

Mr. Temple commented that, in the Strategic Plan, the Board had identified critical needs in Florida for teachers, nurses, and engineers. He said the performance measures now included other things, such as the award of baccalaureate degrees to underrepresented minorities. Ms. McDevitt said the Strategic Plan should be updated as the targets for baccalaureate degrees were not sufficient. Chancellor Rosenberg said that there were many issues and that the choice and weights assigned to any of the measures would leave some institutions dissatisfied. Ms. McDevitt said that university strategic plans should be consistent with this Board's Strategic Plan.

3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held June 13, 2007

Dr. Chase moved that the Committee approve the Minutes of the Student Affairs Committee meeting held June 13, 2007, as presented. Mr. Martin seconded the motion, and members of the Committee concurred.

4. Approval, Board of Governors Regulations: 6C-6.001, General Admissions; 6C-6.002, Undergraduate Admission of First-Time, Degree-Seeking Freshmen; and 6C-6.009, Admission of International Students to State University System Institutions

Mr. Richard Stevens explained two of the Board regulations on admission. He said these regulations were approved for notice and public comment at the August

Board meeting. He said 6C-6.001, General Admissions, included general admission standards applicable to any student, undergraduate or graduate. He said the provisions of this regulation were previously included in a Board of Regents rule and the language had been clarified to reflect the current governance structure. He noted that the provisions related to "limited access" programs were removed and would be included in a new regulation.

He also explained the provisions of 6C-6.002, Undergraduate Admission of First-Time, Degree-Seeking Freshmen. He said that these were minimum criteria for first-time admissions. Dr. Chase said the table of sliding scores and grade-point averages within the regulation were misleading and might give students a false expectation that, with these low scores, they would be admitted to an SUS institution. Mrs. Roberts said it was clear that these were minimum requirements and might not gain a student admission. Mr. Martin inquired how students were advised of new course requirements. Mr. Stevens said the staff traveled throughout the state every summer on "advising tours" with high school counselors to inform them of admissions requirements. Dr. Chase said he would recommend that these scores and grade-point tables remain in the regulation, but that staff bring them back for further Board discussion in the spring.

Mr. Perez moved that the Committee approve Regulations 6C-6.001 and 6C-6.002, as presented. Dr. Marshall seconded the motion, and members of the Committee concurred.

Dr. Minear explained the provisions of Regulation 6C-6.009, Admission of International Students to State University System Institutions. She said this regulation included information that was previously included in System policy regarding mandatory health insurance for international students. She said there was one additional change, in paragraph (2)(k), describing the minimum coverage, deleting "per accident or illness."

Dr. Chase moved that the Committee approve Regulation 6C-6.009, as amended. Mr. Perez seconded the motion, and members of the Committee concurred.

5. Discussion, Immunization

Ms. McDevitt said a USF student had died earlier in the week of meningitis. She extended her deepest sympathies to the student's family. She reported that the Directors of the College Health Centers had met to review existing rules regarding meningitis vaccinations. She asked Ms. Lesley Sacher, Director, Thagard Health Center, FSU, to share recommendations from the directors for the Board's consideration. Ms. Sacher said that the directors recommended that the existing requirement be changed from a recommended immunization to a required immunization, that all new incoming students show proof of immunization as a requirement for matriculation. She recommended that the Board should work with the Department of Health and the

Centers for Disease Control to define any exceptions to the requirements. She also noted that a clarification was needed regarding the definition of exception due to religious reasons. She said a Task Force of university general counsels and members of the Health Alliance would review the exemptions and recommend standard procedures for the State University System. Ms. Sacher also referenced the Florida Shots Program in the Department of Health. She said this was a state on-line tracking system on immunization. She noted the value of universities entering immunization information into the database.

Ms. McDevitt suggested that the review should be broader than looking only at the issue of meningitis immunizations. She indicated that further staff work would be needed on the other recommendations presented by the Directors of the College Health Centers. Chancellor Rosenberg inquired about the cost of required meningitis immunizations and how this would be paid. Ms. McDevitt suggested that the Chancellor appoint a task force to review the recommendations of the Health Alliance and bring a recommendation back to the Board for action. Dr. Minear said the group also needed to be able to work with the Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control to define the "at-risk" population for meningitis.

Mr. Stavros inquired if a student's health information included information about any emotional problems. Ms. McDevitt said Dr. Marshall was gathering information about universities' handling of mental health issues and would be reporting on his findings at a future meeting of the Student Affairs Committee.

6. Legislative Budget Request Issue: Graduate Student Support

Ms. McDevitt said that, during the deliberations regarding the Board's Legislative Budget Request (LBR), several issues were returned to committees for further consideration. The LBR request for \$15,487,500 to cover health insurance for Teaching Assistants, Research Assistants, and other Graduate Assistants was reviewed by the Council of Academic Vice Presidents. Dr. Minear said that, in fall 2006, the SUS employed 14,675 TAs, RAs, and GAs working 10 or more hours per week. She commented that all 34 of the AAU public institutions offered a health insurance subsidy for their graduate assistants, with 70 percent of them covering 100 percent of the cost. She said the enrollment information had been updated since August. The updated request to cover the TAs, RAs, and GAs was \$16,830,000. She said that, if the Board decided to cover Graduate Fellows, an additional \$4,027,500 would be needed.

Dean Nancy Marcus, Graduate Dean, FSU, explained that graduate support was an issue for universities nationally. She said graduate students were essential to higher education. As Teaching Assistants, they are instructors in the classroom, and as Research Assistants, they enhance the research and the reputation of the university. She said they also represented the next generation of faculty and contribute to the economic prosperity of the state and nation. She explained the American Competitiveness Initiative in science, technology, and engineering. She said the competition for graduate

students was increasing, and it was essential that the SUS institutions make competitive offers for the best students. She said health insurance is a critical component in any offer. She noted that graduate education is often viewed as a private good as opposed to a public good. She said it should rather be seen as an investment in the future.

Ms. McDevitt said it was important to address ways to attract and retain outstanding graduate assistants. Mr. Perez said he was not comfortable adding the expense for the Graduate Fellows. He moved that the Committee approve the budget request for \$16,830,000 to cover TAs, RAs, and GAs. Ms. Pappas seconded the motion, and members of the Committee concurred.

Dr. Chase noted that there might be some confusion about "fellows." He said if Graduate Fellows were on a true fellowship, they were receiving money to attend school, not to work. He said they were similar in stature to the other graduate students and also should have health insurance coverage. Ms. McDevitt suggested that the Committee receive additional information at a subsequent meeting.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m., September 26, 2007.

Charlie Edwards, Chair
Sheila McDevitt, Chair

Mary-Anne Bestebreurtje