

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
Research and Economic Development Committee
December 6, 2007**

SUBJECT: Laboratory Space and Equipment Efficiencies

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Information / Discussion

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Section 7(d), Art. IX, Florida Constitution, Section 1001.705

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its September 2007 meeting, the Research and Economic Development Committee heard a status report on laboratory space and equipment efficiencies in the State University System (SUS). Subsequent to that report, Governor Duncan directed staff to meet with the SUS Vice Presidents for Research to discuss whether any particular actions by the Board of Governors would result in further efficiencies.

The Vice Presidents for Research convened as a group on this topic in November 2007. The Vice Presidents for Research verified that major research universities operate and maintain a wide variety of research equipment and space. At most universities, there are core research facilities that are available for use by all faculty and students, regardless of department or college. Many laboratories in the SUS are national and global resources that continue to evolve, and are not solely university or state facilities.

The Vice Presidents for Research provided input into the attached Summary Report. The Report provides evidence that collaboration is largely the way research is carried out in the SUS and that core research facilities at each of the universities are used extensively by state university, national, and international researchers without the need for further policies or agreements. Major points of the Report are as follows:

- Due to continuing technological advances, research collaboration is global in nature, and does not occur solely within a university or within the SUS.

- Increased collaboration on research projects has been driven by the need to bring together experts with many different areas of expertise to solve problems, in addition to the increased cost of frontier equipment.
- While room for improvement always remains, professional communication is open and ongoing, as researchers are continually informed of the specific equipment that is available at their university, within the SUS, and nationally.
- Investigators often consult the professional literature within their discipline prior to a major research initiative, in order to learn of research equipment and space availability within the SUS and nationally.
- State universities report that sharing and collaboration is a research reality among faculty, departments, and colleges, primarily due to the inadequate amount of research space. Many research laboratories in the SUS are in use seven days a week, 24 hours a day.
- Much research in the SUS is guided by federal grants that involve reciprocal sharing among the research team.
- Several universities have formal agreements with commercial users and other external entities for research partnerships.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Summary Report

Facilitators / Presenters:

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