

MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 5, 2007

Ms. Sheila McDevitt, Chair, convened the meeting of the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Governors at 3:45 p.m., in the Live Oak Center, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida, December 5, 2007, with the following members present: Dr. Arlen Chase, Dr. Stanley Marshall, Frank Martin, Ryan Moseley, and Ava Parker. Other members of the Board also present were Charlie Edwards, Carolyn K. Roberts, and Gus Stavros.

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held September 26, 2007

Dr. Chase moved that the Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting held September 26, 2007, as presented. Mr. Martin seconded the motion, and members of the Committee concurred.

2. Consideration and Approval of Code of Conduct Related to Student Loan Practices

Ms. McDevitt said the Attorney General in New York had begun an investigation into student loan practices, which the Attorney General in Florida, Bill McCollum, had pursued in Florida. She said Board staff had been working with representatives of the universities and with the Attorney General's Office to develop a set of guidelines for the Board and for the university boards to adopt which were designed to avoid the potential for conflicts of interest in connection with student loan practices at state universities.

General Counsel Vikki Shirley explained the Code of Conduct, which was designed to ensure the integrity of the financial aid process, eliminate potential conflicts of interest, and provide a transparent process for students and parents when selecting a lender. She said the Code would prohibit university officers, trustees, and employees from accepting anything of more than nominal value from any lending institution in connection with student loan activities. The Code also would prohibit university officers, trustees, and employees who make financial aid decisions for the university from receiving any remuneration serving as a member or participant of a student loan advisory board of a lending institution. Additionally, the Code would preclude a university from accepting anything of value from a lending institution in exchange for any advantage or consideration provided to the lender related to its student loan activities. The Code also outlined the parameters that would have to be followed if a

university established a preferred list of lenders for its students and parents to consider, including making it clear that the lenders named would not be the only ones that could be chosen.

Ms. McDevitt said that some had criticized the proposed Code as being weak and just stated the obvious conflict of interest prohibitions. She said it seemed to cover the issues. She noted that this Code was stronger than the Code adopted by the National Association of Student Aid Directors. She noted that this was not the only Code of Conduct; there were Codes already in place at the universities.

Dr. Chase inquired if there were preferred lender lists for need-based aid and requirements for taking loans ????. Ms. McDevitt said this was a procedure rather than a guide for how to behave with third party lenders. She noted that the universities were happy with the proposed Code.

Mr. Martin moved that the Committee approve the proposed Student Loan Practices Code of Conduct, as presented. Mr. Moseley seconded the motion, and members of the Committee concurred.

3. Presentation of Recommendations from The *Go Higher, Florida!* Task Force

Dr. Minear explained that, in January 2007, a Task Force was convened to review and analyze secondary-to-postsecondary alignment issues and to develop policy recommendations for ensuring that students were prepared to succeed in college. The Task Force included representatives from all the education sectors. She noted that the work of the Task Force was in line with recommendations included in the Board's *Forward by Design* project. The Task Force had reviewed considerable data and information. She said the focus of the Task Force was that all students should be prepared for success in life and in higher education. The Task Force had looked at assuring alignment of standards, curricula, assessments, instructor training, and data collection and analysis across sectors.

Ms. McDevitt noted that the Task Force was still working on some of the definitions regarding "college and career readiness." She said the view of career readiness was very different now from ten years earlier. She inquired whether these recommendations were designed to enhance graduation rates. Dr. Minear said they were, as well as ensuring that students had the skills for success at the next level. She added that these recommendations would also dovetail with access and success programs already in place.

Ms. Parker said she was pleased to see the convergence between skills for college and career skills. Ms. McDevitt inquired how these recommendations worked with the Board's best practices. Dr. Minear said the goal was to better align the competencies

needed for high school graduation with the competencies needed to move into higher education.

Mr. Martin moved that the Committee endorse the recommendations from the *Go Higher, Florida!* Task Force, as presented. Dr. Chase seconded the motion, and members of the Committee concurred.

4. Miscellaneous

Ms. McDevitt said there were a number of sub-committees exploring university preparedness following the April shootings at Virginia Tech. She said that Dr. Marshall's team was reviewing mental health. She said there were two interinstitutional workgroups, one working with the Board's General Counsel on legal issues, the other working with Dr. Minear on other mental health care issues. The workgroups were also surveying best practices from other states. She said she anticipated recommendations to the Student Affairs Committee at the Board's January meeting.

Ms. McDevitt said the Student Affairs Committee had discussed meningitis vaccinations at its September meeting and had requested a recommendation from the Student Health Center Directors. She said there was discussion about the definition of "at risk" students in the State University System. She said staff would be proposing a Board regulation at the January meeting. Dr. Minear reported that the focus would be on education, and to assure that all students were aware of the risks of meningitis. She said the recommendation would be that students should have to consciously waive out of taking the vaccination. She said the regulation would establish minimum requirements regarding educating students about what they should be doing to avoid risk.

Chancellor Rosenberg commented that the work of the Campus Safety Task Force should be completed prior to the one-year anniversary of the Virginia Tech shootings in April. He said recommendations from the Task Force should be submitted to the Student Affairs Committee in March 2008.

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m., December 5, 2007.

Sheila McDevitt, Chair

Mary-Anne Bestebreurtje