

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
September 25, 2008

SUBJECT: Improving Educational Attainment in Florida

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Endorsement of the Report of the SUS Workgroup with Regard to Senate Bill 1716
and the Florida State College System; Reaffirmation of Freshmen Enrollment Freeze;
and Request for Revised Enrollment Plans

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Section 7(d), Article IX, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Florida lags in its population with college degrees. Currently, 27% of Florida's 25-64-year-old population has a bachelor's or higher degree. The national average is 29%, and in the ten most productive states, 33% of the core workforce has a college degree. Education attainment levels and economic productivity are closely correlated; more college graduates and well-trained vocational graduates could improve the productivity of existing industries, start new businesses that grow the economy, and help make Florida an attractive place for companies to expand. Florida can and must compete nationally and internationally.

The Strategic Planning and Academic and System Oversight Committee will discuss how many and what types of baccalaureate degrees should be awarded in the state, as well as how many graduate and professional degrees should be offered. The Committee will be updated on (1) the Education Pipeline and Workforce Projections; (2) the newly-created Florida College System; and (3) SUS Enrollment Plans. The Committee will bring forth its recommendations regarding the Board's (1) endorsement of the report of the SUS Workgroup with Regard to Senate Bill 1716 and the Florida State College System; (2) reaffirmation that the limitations on freshman enrollment growth shall remain in place through fall 2010 (see resolution and minutes in supporting documentation.); and (3) request that the Chancellor solicit revised plans from universities based on current enrollment data and revised fiscal assumptions for 2009-10 and submit to the Board for discussion at the November budget committee meeting.

Supporting Documentation Available:

Refer to Committee Documentation.