

MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS/STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 16, 2006

Mr. Dasburg, Chair, convened the meeting of the Academic Programs/Strategic Planning Committee of the Board of Governors at 8:50 a.m., in the UWF Conference Center, University of West Florida, Pensacola, Florida, November 16, 2006, with the following members present: Dr. Akshay Desai, Ann Duncan, Charles Edwards, Frank Harrison, Dr. Stanley Marshall, Frank Martin, Sheila McDevitt, Tico Perez, Carolyn K. Roberts, and Dr. Zach Zachariah.

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held September 21, 2006

Dr. Zachariah moved that the Committee approve the Minutes of the Meeting held September 21, 2006, as presented. Dr. Marshall seconded the motion, and members of the Committee concurred.

2. Florida Gulf Coast University: Expansion Plans in Charlotte County

Mr. Dasburg said the Committee had heard from President Genshaft in September about USF's plans in Lakeland. Similarly, the Committee had invited President Merwin to describe Florida Gulf Coast University's (FGCU) plans for expansion in Charlotte County.

Dr. Merwin thanked the Committee for the opportunity to clarify FGCU's plans to meet student demand. He said it was not the intent of the University to establish a branch campus; that was not likely for another eight to ten years. He said the press had exaggerated the University's plans. He explained the site selection process used by the Board of Regents in locating FGCU initially. A total of 29 developers had offered sites to the Board, including sites in Charlotte County. The Board had selected the Alico site, offered by Mr. Ben Hill Griffin; the offer included 750 acres, as well as funding for several Eminent Scholars. He noted that Mr. Edwards, as Chair of the Board of Regents at that time (check?), as well as Mrs. Roberts, had participated in the site selection. Dr. Merwin said he was the second President of FGCU, appointed in 1999. He noted that over the past ten years, there was a shift in FGCU's mission as a commuter campus. He said that other institutions within the System were filling rapidly; universities were adding new athletic programs. In 2001, the new University Boards of Trustees were appointed and assumed responsibility for the universities, including authorizing baccalaureate and master's level degree programs. He said FGCU now offered 64 degree programs of importance to SW Florida, such as nursing and geriatric care. He noted that FGCU had opened with eight buildings on campus and now had 59 buildings; 50 buildings had been added since he became the President. \$220 million had been raised over the past eight years. Students could take 350 courses over the internet. The University also required civic engagement of its students through community service and volunteer activities. He said FGCU had now enrolled students for ten years. 2500 students had enrolled initially; the headcount for Fall 2006 was 8,282 students. He said that by 2016-2017, the main campus would be completely built out. The campus had 140 acres inside the perimeter road, most instruction occurred within

that space. In future, buildings would be built taller, and surface parking would be replaced by parking garages.

He said in his discussions, he had avoided using the term “branch campus,” recognizing the authority of this Board to approve “branch campuses.” He said he called the proposed site in Charlotte County, an “instructional site.” He said the University was exploring off-campus sites, particularly with the rising costs of both land and fuel. He commented that transportation to the main campus was difficult as the main access was via a very crowded 4-lane interstate. He described the four sites the University was considering for instructional sites: a 2.5 acre piece in Naples; a site in LaBelle, Hendry County; a site in Cape Coral; and the site in Charlotte County. All of these sites would serve fewer than 100 students.

Mr. Dasburg inquired how FIU differentiated its two campuses, University Park and Biscayne Bay. President Maidique responded that when he began his Presidency, there was a push to make the North Campus, a “little big” campus. The administration decided not to duplicate programs on both campuses, and as the North Campus was near hotels, the Hospitality Management program was located there as well as a major Conference Center. Certain programs were located on both campuses. Basic courses in business and the arts and sciences, e.g., English, Political Science and Accounting, were available on the North Campus, with four-year degree completion in these programs occurring on the University Park campus. He noted that the main campus was land-locked. He added that FIU did not use the term “satellite campus.” The North Campus is an official branch campus.

President Merwin said that FGCU had three instructional sites; there were no full-time faculty at any of these sites. He said there were SACS accreditation issues regarding branch campuses, such as the facilities, library services, and student support services. He said the Board of Trustees had accepted an offer of land and money, but not an exclusive offer with the one developer for the Hudson Sun River site.

Mr. Dasburg inquired what a “satellite campus” meant and how that term fit into the Board’s campus nomenclature, as defined by Board Regulation. Chancellor Rosenberg explained that the branch campus typology moved from lower to higher purpose centers. He asked where FGCU’s named “satellite center” fit in the typology of the Board Regulation. Mr. Dasburg said President Merwin also called the site an “instructional site” and inquired about the Board’s authority over that type of site. Chancellor Rosenberg said an “instructional site” fell below the threshold of seeking Board authorization.

Ms. Duncan said she was concerned about increasing community support and the sense of proceeding on a proposed campus precedent to Board approval. President Merwin said he welcomed this Board’s direction.

Mr. Edwards suggested that any decision regarding future expansion should wait for the completion of the Pappas Consulting Group’s report. He said he would compliment President Merwin and the citizens of Charlotte County for looking ahead more than five years, particularly as costs were rising. He commented, however, that the proposed site was opposed by the entire area legislative delegation as well as by members of the County Commission. He said it would be difficult to move forward with this opposition. He said in future, in responding to the demand in Charlotte County, the Board would encourage the President to work with the appropriate

governmental entities on several sites, including Edison College. He said if Charlotte County sought a university presence, FGCU should work with other proposals. He noted that this Board had not discussed the concept of additional sites other than this proposal being presented. He said this Board should not move forward on any proposal without the support of Legislators and county commissioners, and FGCU might want to propose other sites. Mr. Dasburg said the Pappas Report would be presented at the Board's January meeting.

Dr. Merwin agreed that it was reasonable to follow Mr. Edwards' suggestions. He said it was not his intention to create a "satellite campus" at the proposed site, and that he understood Mr. Edwards' suggestion to move away from the Hudson Sun River site. He said he would invite Legislators and commissioners to step forward to address higher education access in Charlotte County, and that he would work with governmental bodies rather than developers in developing site proposals. Mr. Edwards noted that the proposal presented was a great proposal, but that it had generated opposition from local governmental leaders and area legislators.

Chancellor Rosenberg added that the Board might also need to rethink its site nomenclature. Mr. Dasburg said the universities should characterize their off-campus educational activities in accordance with the vocabulary used in the Board Regulation. President Merwin said FGCU was aware that it would have to seek Board approval for the establishment of a branch campus. Mr. Dasburg thanked Dr. Merwin for giving the Board the sense of its future direction.

3. Proposed New Doctorate Degree Programs

Mr. Dasburg said the members of the Committee had received the agenda materials describing the proposals for the new doctorates from UF, FSU, and FIU. He said the format in which these proposals were presented had been established by the Board to ensure the information was germane. The format could be further amended if Board members needed additional information. He encouraged questions of university staff about these new degree proposals. There were no questions.

Mr. Edwards moved that the Committee approve, and recommend approval to the full Board, of the proposed Ph.D. in Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology, at the University of Florida, CIP Code 26.0204, as presented. Ms. Duncan seconded the motion, and members of the Committee concurred.

Ms. Duncan moved that the Committee approve, and recommend approval to the full Board, of the proposed Ph.D. in Computational Science, at Florida State University, CIP Code 30.0801, as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, and members of the Committee concurred.

Ms. Duncan moved that the Committee approve, and recommend approval to the full Board, of the proposed Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering, at Florida International University, CIP Code 14.1801, as presented. Ms. McDevitt seconded the motion, and members of the Committee concurred.

4. Cost per Degree: Status Report

Dr. Nate Johnson reported that the Work Group had had a good meeting the previous day to discuss data gathering. The Work Group had agreed to focus cost per degree analysis on programs in Nursing, Engineering and Education. The Work Group had requested that it present its final report at the Board's March meeting, with a status report in January. He said the Group wanted to be certain of valid data prior to submitting its final report.

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m., November 16, 2006.

John Dasburg, Chairman

Mary-Anne Bestebreurtje,
Corporate Secretary