



MINUTES

**Board of Governors, State University System of Florida
Student Affairs Committee
August 9, 2006, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
University of Central Florida
Orlando, Florida**

Governor Sheila McDevitt called the meeting of the Board of Governors Student Affairs Committee to order at 12:50 p.m. on Wednesday, August 9, 2006, at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida. Other Board members in attendance included Dr. Arlen Chase, Ms. Ann Duncan, Mr. Frank Harrison, Ms. Ava Parker (via telephone), Ms. Carolyn Roberts, and Commissioner John Winn. The Committee was joined by the following Vice Presidents for Student Affairs: Dr. Wendy Bashant - NCF, Dr. Mary Coburn - FSU, Dr. Maribeth Ehasz - UCF, Dr. Rosa Jones - FIU, Dr. Emanuel Newsome - FAU, and Dr. Patricia Telles-Irvin - UF.

Dr. Ehasz reported that the attending vice presidents had met with the Chancellor and some Board staff members during lunch and had discussed issues they thought were important at the System level. The vice presidents expressed an interest in meeting with members of the Student Affairs Committee more frequently. They suggested that, as Committee members visit different universities, Student Affairs staff could arrange to introduce them to various programs and activities on the campuses.

Next on the agenda, Dr. Heather Sherry, Director of the Office of Articulation, reminded Committee members that the Board of Governors, via resolution, had mandated the award and transfer of credit by Florida's public postsecondary institutions for passing scores on exams taken from College Board Advanced Placement, CLEP, Cambridge AICE, International Baccalaureate (IB), DANTES, and Excelsior. She explained that the guaranteed minimum credit and course equivalencies awarded for passing scores were maintained by the Articulation Coordinating Committee.

Dr. Sherry presented recommendations from the Articulation Coordinating Committee regarding the five-year comprehensive update of the credit-by-exam equivalencies list. She explained that 106 faculty members had participated on 41 discipline committees, which had reviewed and evaluated 187 exams. Each faculty discipline committee determined course and credit equivalencies. Dr. Sherry explained that the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education had to approve the equivalencies before they could go into effect across the State and across educational sectors.

A motion was made and seconded to forward the recommendations to the full Board for approval. The motion passed.

Governor McDevitt introduced the next topic by noting that the Committee was entering Phase II of the Access and Diversity Project. She indicated that the Committee would focus first on the financial dimensions of higher education access. Dr. Dorothy Minear, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, reported that some researchers estimate that, by 2028, there will be 19 million more jobs than workers who are adequately prepared to fill them. They report that a large portion of new jobs – especially jobs that offer competitive salaries and benefits – will demand skills and knowledge far beyond those of a high school graduate. [NAB Analysis of population and workforce projections from U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2001.] Dr. Minear reported that, in its latest draft, Secretary Spellings' Commission on the Future of Higher Education indicates that 90% of new jobs are going to require some postsecondary education, with a growing proportion of them requiring the baccalaureate or higher. She stated that, here in Florida, staff from the Department of Education (DOE) have worked with staff from the Agency for Workforce Innovation and the office of Economic and Demographic Research and have estimated that the number of jobs requiring a baccalaureate or higher will increase by 68% between 2004 and 2030.

Dr. Minear reminded Committee members that, in response to this need, the Board of Governors, in its Strategic Planning process, had established the goal to increase degree production in the State University System to reach the national average in the number of baccalaureate, master's, and professional degrees awarded per capita. Additionally, the State University System (SUS) had established a similar goal for producing emerging technology doctorates. This would mean enrolling 56,000 more students per year by 2012-13 and producing 20,256 more baccalaureate, master's, and professional degrees per year by 2012-13.

Dr. Minear focused next on students in the pipeline. She reported that, currently, 46% of the students in Florida's public schools are eligible for Free or Reduced-

Price Lunch, with some counties having as many as 75% of the students qualifying. She shared research that indicated that students from low-income families consistently attend college at rates much lower than their less financially challenged peers. Research shows that even high-achieving students from low SES groups attend at lower rates.

Dr. Minear stated that, nationally and in Florida (although students in Florida tend to fare better), students from low socioeconomic backgrounds must spend a major portion of their family income to attend college, whereas students from the highest socioeconomic backgrounds have to spend less than 10% of their family income. According to the draft report from the Spellings Commission, unmet financial need among families with incomes below \$34,000 annually grew by 80 percent from 1990 to 2004 at four-year institutions, compared to 7 percent for the highest income families (Ann Coles, 2005). Therefore, degree attainment in a timely manner at the baccalaureate level and above is tremendously lower for students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

Dr. Minear reiterated that students from underrepresented minority groups are overrepresented among the economically disadvantaged. Therefore, timely degree attainment for students from these underrepresented minorities is also affected. She reported that, according to DOE reports, the student population in Florida's public school sector is now majority minority, with some counties having between 50 and 95% of their students from minority groups. She asked Committee members to look at the projected changes in the State's college-going-age population and the workforce population in the coming decades. She reported that, as the White population tends to age, the 18- to 44-year-old population will become more diverse. One article from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that more openings in the coming decades will come from retirements than from new jobs - with many jobs requiring more postsecondary education. The article indicated that a large number of retirements are expected from workers from the "baby boom" generation who currently are in jobs requiring college-level training.

Dr. Minear referred to the Board of Governors' Strategic Planning Goal related to access and diversity, as well as to the SUS accountability measures related to access and diversity. She reported that, although the SUS had been slowly increasing the proportion of graduates in the past three years who were from underrepresented minority groups, the challenge would remain, because the proportion of 18- to 44-year-olds from minority groups is also growing in Florida.

Dr. Minear closed her presentation by reporting on several research findings regarding the impact of financial aid on student enrollment, retention, and

graduation. She indicated that students' perception of ability to finance (or to receive financial aid for) postsecondary education influences student aspirations, course-taking patterns, college admission test taking, participation in early intervention programs, and applying for admissions into postsecondary education. She went on to say that there was a positive correlation between the availability of financial aid and enrollment. Researchers have concluded that the simple presence of financial aid often is enough to encourage students to prepare for college and to take the steps necessary to enroll in an institution.

Dr. Minear reported that the presence of financial aid affects persistence decisions positively. It allows lower-income students to behave in an academic and social manner more like their non-financially constrained peers. Students with financial aid are more likely to transfer from 2-year to 4-year institutions. The presence of financial aid also is reported to be positively associated with persistence to graduation.

In response to questions raised by Committee members, Dr. Minear mentioned a few items in the Legislative Budget Request of particular interest to the Student Affairs Committee (e.g., a 10% increase in SUS Student Financial Assistance, funds to support a Statewide network of outreach and intervention services for students from underrepresented populations, university requests to support advising and student tracking systems). She indicated that the Board would also plan to support the Commissioner and the State Board of Education in efforts to seek more funding for the Florida Student Access Grant. She reported that increased funding for the First Generation matching Grant Program would be discussed at the September BOG meeting, because that item was included in substantive legislation.

Commissioner Winn expressed a concern that the State needs a comprehensive financial aid policy. Chancellor Mark Rosenberg suggested that staff plan to provide Board members with a further orientation to the financial aid process at their September meeting, including a delineation of the different funding sources for aid.

At Governor McDevitt's request, Dr. Minear provided a brief update on how universities were progressing in garnering matching funds for the First Generation Matching Grant Program. She reported that some of the institutions had attained their allotted amount for this year and had received pledges into the out years. Some universities had met their match; some had met a good portion of their match. A couple universities were struggling some to get the needed private donations. She also mentioned other services (e.g., special orientation sessions) that were being provided for first generation students and their

families/supporters. Governor McDevitt indicated that the Committee would like to hear more about these types of services at a later meeting.

Next on the agenda, Ms. Lynda Page, Associate Director of Academic and Student Affairs, provided information to the Committee regarding the Stanley Tate Project STARS Program, including a video provided by program administrators. Ms. Page identified the criteria for eligibility in the Project STARS Program: Students must be economically disadvantaged at the time of selection; they must be at risk of dropping out of school; and they must not yet be in the 12th grade. Sponsors may establish additional criteria, subject to approval by the Foundation. Ms. Page went on to report that, to remain eligible, students must stay drug and crime free, adhere to school attendance requirements, abide by the school's code of conduct, meet with a mentor on a regular basis, meet the minimum criteria for high school graduation, and submit an annual college progress report to the Board.

She reported that 65% of the students selected have come from non two-parent homes. Approximately, 54% of the students have been either African American or Hispanic. Ms. Page indicated that STARS Scholarships may be designated as a 120-credit-hour University plan, a 60- or 72-credit-hour community college plan, or a community college plus university (2+2) plan. She reported that the 2+2 plan has been the most popular plan with local donors. Ms. Page provided members with a copy of the last annual report from the Project STARS Program. Dr. Minear reported that BOG staff members were working with Project STARS staff to initiate a research study to determine retention and graduation patterns for Project STARS Scholars.

When Governor McDevitt asked Committee members about additional agenda items, Governor Frank Harrison reported that students would be supportive of a possible technology fee in the SUS if the proposed uses of such a fee were reviewed by a committee of students, subject to presidential veto. Governor McDevitt asked the vice presidents of student affairs to identify the highest student affairs priorities for the System and to plan to share them with the Committee in future meetings. Governor Roberts asked staff to send her information regarding the racial and ethnic breakout of students enrolled in the College Prepaid Program.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m., August 9, 2006.

Sheila McDevitt, Chair

Dorothy J. Minear, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic
and Student Affairs