

Board of Governors

Access and Diversity in Florida Higher Education

**Joint Meeting of the
BOG Student Affairs Committee and the
Governor's Access and Diversity Commission**

June 22, 2006



State University System of Florida

Topics for Discussion

- Recommendations from the Student Affairs Committee and the Governor's Commission
 - Rigorous Academic Preparation and Early Intervention
 - Financial Access
 - Retention Support
 - Review and Accountability
- “Next Steps” – The BOG's On-Going Commitment to Improved Access, Diversity, and Retention in the State University System



Recommendations

Rigorous Academic Preparation and Early Intervention

- Increased rigor in Florida's middle and high school curricula.
- Alignment between K-12 standards/curricula and the skills needed for success in college and in the "high-performance workplace" and "knowledge economy."
- Sustainable, high-quality postsecondary partnerships with middle and high schools.
- Increased operational efficiency and consistency, as well as funding, for CROP.



Recommendations

Financial Access

- Simplified financial aid application processes and forms.
- Assistance for students and their families/supporters in negotiating the application and financial aid process.
- Increased federal, state, and institutional need-based financial aid.
- Increased support from private donors for access, diversity, and retention initiatives.
- A “financial aid commitment program” that guarantees financial assistance for economically disadvantaged students if they meet certain requirements.



Recommendations

Retention Support

- Funding and action to institute/strengthen student advising, counseling, and tracking systems (including automated systems, as appropriate) that are tailored to the particular needs of each campus.
- Increased support both on campus and in the community for enrolled postsecondary students from underrepresented populations.



Recommendations

Review and Accountability

- Guidelines that require universities to periodically review institutional access, diversity, and retention policies, procedures, and programs.



Potential Next Steps

June 2006

- Begin developing a plan for a State University System “financial aid commitment program.”
- Begin developing proposed guidelines that require State universities to periodically review institutional access, diversity, and retention policies, procedures, and programs.
- Begin searching for and researching other foundations and philanthropic groups that might be interested in and able to provide financial support to enhance the System’s efforts to improve access, diversity, and retention.



Potential Next Steps

August 2006

- If deemed appropriate, consider a System-wide Legislative Budget Request and/or proposed substantive legislation regarding an SUS “financial aid commitment program.”
- Consider proposed substantive legislation regarding authority for the Board Foundation to receive State matching funds for donations, particularly those designated for need-based aid and related support services for students from traditionally underrepresented populations.



Potential Next Steps

October 2006

- Consider proposed guidelines that require State universities to periodically review institutional access, diversity, and retention policies, procedures, and programs.

On-Going

- Work with educational, community, and governmental partners to respond to other recommendations outlined above.

