

MINUTES
FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE/
GOVERNOR'S ACCESS AND DIVERSITY COMMISSION
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
MARCH 22, 2006

Student Affairs Committee

Ms. McDevitt, Chair, convened the meeting of the Board of Governors Student Affairs Committee at 1:35 p.m., in the Ralph Turlington Building, Tallahassee, Florida, March 22, 2006, with the following Board members present: Dr. Akshay Desai; Ms. Ann Duncan; Mr. Joe Goldberg; Dr. Stanley Marshall; Dr. Martha Pelaez; and Ms. Carolyn K. Roberts. She indicated that the one item on the agenda was consideration of the regulation development and implementation procedures for the Board of Governors. Chair McDevitt explained to members that this procedure was a "mirror image" of the procedure adopted for individual universities in July, 2005.

General Counsel Vikki Shirley explained that this regulation development procedure would be used by the Board of Governors when the Board promulgated policies that would have applicability across the State University System. Ms. Shirley provided an overview of the regulation development procedure, provisions for public comment, and provisions for challenges to proposed or existing regulations. A copy of the proposed procedure was included with the Board of Governors agenda materials.

Chair McDevitt reminded Committee members that Governor John Dasburg had asked the Student Affairs Committee to take on the responsibility of recommending regulation development procedures to the full Board, as well as reviewing specified regulations that come up to the Board from the universities. A motion was made to recommend to the full Board adoption of the proposed procedures. The motion was seconded and passed by the Committee.

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

At this time, Ms. McDevitt convened the joint meeting of the Board's Student Affairs Committee and the Governor's Access and Diversity Commission. In addition to the aforementioned Committee members, the following Commission members were in attendance: Dr. Castell Bryant, Ms. Carmen Brown; Dr. Gordon Chavis; Representative Anitere Flores; Ms. Keneshia Grant; Senator Al Lawson; Mr. Darryl Marshall; Ms. DeeDee Rasmussen; and Dr. Lawrence Morehouse.

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 23, 2006. The motion passed. Ms. McDevitt mentioned that, based on requests received at the last meeting, some additional materials regarding the College Reach Out Program (CROP) had been included in members' folder, including a map that laid out where the CROP institutions were by county and the RFP that was generally used to establish a CROP initiative.

2. Legislative Update

Senator Lawson provided members with an update on the First Generation Matching Grant bill. He indicated that the Senate bill (SB 1750) had been referred to two committees and was currently in Senate Appropriations. The Senate Education Committee had stricken everything in the bill after the enacting clause and had replaced it with language that expanded the program to include community college students, students whose parents did not attain a baccalaureate degree, and part-time students. Senator Lawson indicated that there was approximately \$23 million in the Senate budget for need-based financial aid, but that an additional \$15 million was needed to fully fund the Governor's recommendations. He encouraged Commission/Committee members to speak to key legislators about these recommendations. He indicated that

they were waiting on the next Revenue Estimating Conference to see if additional funds might be available.

In response to a question from Ms. McDevitt, Dr. Minear explained that the Senate bill and the House bill were not identical. The House bill (HB 795) included language about residency for tuition purposes for students of illegal undocumented parents. Dr. Minear indicated that copies of both of the First Generation Matching Grant bills, as well as two bills associated with undocumented students (HB 119 and SB 366), were included in the members' folders.

In response to a question from Senator Lawson, Ms. McDevitt explained that the Commission/Committee had begun to track the progress of these latter bills after Governor Bush and President Machen (a member of the Commission) expressed an interest in them at a meeting held prior to the rollout of the Governor's initiative.

Representative Flores indicated that she had decided to put the reference to undocumented students in her bill because she believed it was directly related to access and diversity. She stated that she believed that, if members were educated on the issue, they would agree to her bill. However, Representative Flores indicated that, if they got further along in the process, and it looked like the language would damage the bill's chances of passing, she would pull the language.

Referencing the matrix included in the members' folders that captured the Governor's and the Senate's recommendations for funding of the Access and Diversity Initiatives, Representative Flores provided her impressions as to how the House might recommend to allocate funds. She indicated that she hoped there would be \$14 or \$15 million designated for the First Generation Matching Grant Program. Half would go to community colleges and half would go to universities. Chair McDevitt indicated that she believed several of the universities had already begun to raise money for this issue.

3. Update on Student Progression Data

Dr. Dorothy Minear, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, provided members with an overview of some of the preliminary data related to student progression through middle and high school, as well as postsecondary education. She asked that Commission/Committee members and audience members make a correction to the presentation documents to ensure that the students still enrolled in high school were captured along with those who had left Florida public high schools prior to graduation. She proceeded to share information about cohorts of sixth graders as they progressed through the education system. Also, she provided Commission/Committee members with a brief overview of how first-time-in-college students progressed through the State University System.

President Bryant encouraged staff, as they do further analysis, to determine which kinds of high school credentials students obtain. Dr. Pelaez referenced the tremendous amount of research which has been done to determine the reasons why some students are not persisting to college graduation. Dr. Minear indicated that her goal was to provide members with an overview of some of the general persistence patterns at this point in the analysis process. Chair McDevitt indicated it would be interesting to hear more about what some of the research has shown relative to the persistence of different student groups. President Bryant expressed an interest in learning more about the Florida students who did graduate from high school with a standard diploma, but who did not pursue higher education in one of Florida's postsecondary systems. She also wanted to know more about the students who left the State University System in good academic standing. Ms. McDevitt expressed an interest in more data from the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida and the Community College System. Ms. McDevitt noted that one of the recommendations from the Commission might be to pursue some of these questions subsequent to June. Governor Pelaez volunteered to help staff locate graduate students who might help work on some of these research questions.

4. ENLACE FLORIDA

Dr. Ralph Wilcox, the Associate Provost from the University of South Florida, introduced some members of the ENLACE FLORIDA leadership team (UCF: Dr. Gloria Laureano, FAU: Dr. Nancy Poulson, FIU: Dr. Lidia Tuttle, USF: Ms. Donna Parrino and Dr. Paul Dosal). Dr. Wilcox explained that the mission of ENLACE FLORIDA, which is seeking funding from the Kellogg Foundation, is to build a statewide network to improve college readiness, access, and success in higher education for Latino students and other underrepresented groups. He reported that Hispanics are highly diverse and are characterized by high dropout rates in high school and low postsecondary attendance and completion rates. He went on to say that the four universities accounted for 75 percent of the Hispanic enrollment in the State University System in 2005, and their partner community colleges enrolled 80 percent of the Hispanics in that system, and the partner school districts contributed 90 percent of the Latino membership in the K-12 sector. Further materials regarding ENLACE FLORIDA were provided in the members' folders.

Dr. Wilcox introduced Ms. Rose Tozzi, a Career Specialist from Dowdell Middle School in Tampa, and Ms. Carolina Leon, a pre-med senior who has participated with ENLACE since 2000. Both spoke highly of the benefits of the program. Dr. Wilcox concluded by emphasizing the ENLACE goals of promoting policy change, leveraging existing resources, and developing sustainable best practices with empirical benchmarks that improve college readiness, access, and success.

Governor McDevitt noted that so much of what ENLACE representatives had shared was applicable to all kinds of programs. President Bryant acknowledged the program's success in demonstrating accountability and obtaining funds from the philanthropic corporate world. She also noted the need to employ individuals who have a passion for the work they do in these programs. She emphasized that the demonstration of accountability was crucial – that individuals running academic support programs needed not to just talk about how good their programs are, but to provide data demonstrating success.

Dr. Morehouse stated that the Kellogg Foundation was to be commended for its work with ENLACE. He asked the Commission/Committee to consider a resolution that recognized ENLACE's success and its ability to help achieve the goals outlined by the Governor and the Commission/Committee. He asked for a resolution that articulated unqualified support for the development of a Statewide ENLACE. Ms. McDevitt replied that she thought it would be good to take the recommendation for such a resolution under advisement until the joint Commission/Committee had the opportunity to see how it fit into the overall recommendations of the group. She asked that Mr. Morehouse share a copy of the resolution with Dr. Minear. Dr. Wilcox indicated that endorsement from the joint Committee/Commission would help the proposal to be submitted to the Kellogg Foundation by the end of April, but it was not a requirement of the proposal. Members agreed that they should look at the proposed resolution and perhaps decide at the next meeting.

5. The Pipeline to and through Florida State University

Dr. Larry Abele, Provost of Florida State University (FSU), introduced Dr. Karen Laughlin, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, to discuss precollegiate and collegiate access and diversity programs at FSU. In particular, Dean Laughlin focused on programs housed under the umbrella of the University's Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE). She also introduced Angela Richardson, who is the Director of the CARE. Additional materials regarding FSU's programs were provided in the members' folders.

As Dr. Laughlin talked about the varied group of successful programs available at FSU, she focused on some of the common elements. Many of the programs included a summer residential experience for students; outreach to parents; mentoring; cultural enrichment activities; and workshops on topics such as test preparation, college skills, academic planning, and the college application process. Dr. Laughlin also shared some of the accountability data associated with the programs, including data regarding retention and graduation rates. She indicated that, by putting multiple programs and

grants under one administrative umbrella, FSU had been able to create a synergy that helped the programs mutually reinforce one another. She reported that FSU had learned that the success of the access and diversity programs was dependent on sufficient financial support. She went on to say that they were more successful when they supported the students throughout their college careers and when they followed up right away with students experiencing academic difficulty. Small classes often helped. Dr. Laughlin emphasized that the more diverse they could make the groups of students in the programs – including academically – the better the results. She concluded by reemphasizing that an on-going support network is critical for these students' success and that bringing programs together under one umbrella multiplies success.

Governor Pelaez expressed an interest in hearing more about how students were doing by socioeconomic status. Committee/Commission members discussed the need for university leaders to make these types of support programs a priority. Ms. McDevitt mentioned that she thought the Student Affairs Committee would look at leadership issues more in Phase II of the Access and Diversity Initiative, as the Committee continued to focus on how to make the best use of limited resources and how to get the leaders in place to implement and maintain best practices. Dr. Morehouse stated that, if universities do not make these programs a priority, perhaps the Commission might want to consider some language in its final report that would encourage leaders to take these programs more seriously.

Commission/Committee members noted several examples from around the State where they had seen evidence of universities developing good access and diversity models. Some of these programs had received national recognition for their retention and graduation rates.

6. Recommendations for Final Report to the Governor

Members of the Committee/Commission reviewed some of the recommendations that were beginning to emerge from the presentations and their

related discussions. Governor McDevitt reemphasized the need to determine how to broaden the base of successful programs. Ms. Rasmussen articulated the need to focus on quality and sustainable partnerships. President Bryant reminded members of the need to drill down into the student access and diversity data so that they are relevant to the higher education component of the discussion. She emphasized that it was important to think about how to manage the data and what to do with the results.

Members reemphasized the need to focus on the accountability features of the programs associated with the Governor's initiatives, as well as any other programs the Committee/Commission might recommend in the future. They discussed the need to coordinate access and diversity programs to ensure optimal use. Dr. Pelaez asked Dr. Laughlin for more of the FSU data broken down by ethnicity. She expressed an interest in learning more about any gaps in the students being served (for instance, a minority group that does not meet the low-income criterion, but still has needs). She questioned whether all of the students who need extra help are getting the help they need.

Dr. Chavis encouraged the Committee/Commission to take time to look at all programs that are out there serving these student populations, and to support and applaud those with demonstrated records of success. He reemphasized the need for accountability and leadership. He stated that one needed to ask who was being held accountable for making sure these programs were successful. Governor McDevitt indicated that the Committee/Commission should identify those features of the programs they had heard about that they thought were best – that is, to look for some of the commonalities of the successful programs.

Other recommendations from Commission/Committee members included keeping up with federal policies to see what kind of impact they might have on state issues. Also, it was reemphasized that it was important to provide support to students to help them get through the financial aid process. Governor McDevitt reiterated how important it was to get parents involved. She concluded the meeting by indicating that members would continue the discussion at the next meeting and would continue

generating potential recommendations to be included in their final report to the Governor.

Dr. Morehouse issued an invitation for members to attend the Florida Education Fund Summit and Brain Bowl to be held in Tampa the following weekend. He indicated that students would be competing in math, science, reading, and history. The Summit was scheduled to be held at the Tampa Convention Center.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m., March 22, 2006.

Sheila McDevitt, Chair

Dorothy J. Minear, Ph.D.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs