

INDEX OF MINUTES
FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
APRIL 7, 2006

<u>ITEM</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
1.	Call to Order and Chair's Report.....	1
2.	Consideration: Trustee Appointment, Florida A & M University.....	1
3.	Chancellor's Report.....	1
4.	Status Report, 2006 Legislative Session.....	1
5.	Adjournment.....	3

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The Chair, Carolyn K. Roberts, convened the meeting of the Florida Board of Governors by telephone conference call, 1605 Turlington Building, Tallahassee, Florida, at 9:00 a.m., April 7, 2006, with the following members present: John Dasburg, Vice Chair; Jorge Arrizurieta; Dr. Akshay Desai; Ann Duncan; Dr. Stan Marshall; Frank Martin; Sheila McDevitt; Martha Peláez; Tico Perez; John Temple; and Commissioner John Winn.

1. Call to Order and Chair's Report

The Chair, Mrs. Roberts, said the Legislative Session continued to keep the Chancellor and staff very busy. She thanked all the members of the staff for their hard work; and encouraged everyone to keep working. She said the last weeks of Session were always the most challenging.

2. Consideration: Trustee Appointment, Florida A & M University

Mrs. Roberts said she had been advised that Mr. David Griffin had resigned from his position as a member of the Florida A & M University Board of Trustees. She noted that Mr. Griffin was an appointee of the Board of Governors. She recommended to the Board the appointment of Dr. Spurgeon McWilliams, an obstetrician/gynecologist in Tallahassee.

Mr. Temple moved that the Board appoint Dr. Spurgeon McWilliams to the Florida A & M University Board of Trustees, to replace Mr. David Griffin, as recommended. Mr. Arrizurieta seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred.

3. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Rosenberg said that April was a critically important month. He said thousands of students graduated from the universities during April, and there were countless ceremonies during the month recognizing and honoring student achievement and leadership. He said approximately 60,000 students would be graduating from the 11 universities before the end of the month. He noted that activities in the Legislature were also extremely busy during these last weeks.

4. Status Report, 2006 Legislative Session

Mr. Maxey described several major efforts in the Legislature. He said they were all working hard to obtain the Board's budget request for full funding of enrollment growth and for faculty and staff salaries. He reported that the Chancellor was meeting with members in both the House and the Senate on the funding of PECO projects, where the SUS had not fared well.

He reported that the Chancellor had met with Representatives Goodlette and Mealor to discuss issues related to HB 7257, the governance legislation. He had also met with Representative Pickens to discuss major issues affecting the State University System. He said he expected the Senate would soon have its version of a governance bill, and that he still expected some governance legislation to pass this Session.

Mr. Maxey reviewed HB 1171 relating to Travel to Terrorist States, sponsored by Representative Rivera. He said the Chancellor had had conversations with Representative Rivera and other members of the House leadership that this legislation would have a negative effect on university research, and posed a potential concern as to the issue of academic freedom. He said HB 1237 relating to Science and Technology Research, sponsored by Representative Mealor, had been heard in Committee this past week, and had been amended to add community colleges and private universities to the 21st Century World Class Scholars Program and Centers of Excellence Program. The two positions to staff the board created by this bill had also been deleted. He also reviewed HB 7165 relating to the State Constitution, sponsored by the Judiciary Committee, to remove certain provisions from the Constitution and to reconstitute them into the statutes. Representative Simmons had introduced an amendment to remove the Board of Governors from that bill.

Dr. Nancy McKee reported that both the House and Senate had adopted their versions of the General Appropriations Act. The Senate made no changes to the SUS budget; the House adopted two amendments, to fund a Foreign Trained Dentist Program, for \$300,000; and to fund the Florida Institute for Nuclear Disaster Preparedness, for \$200,000. She said the leadership would now appoint a Conference Committee; the organizational meeting for the Conference Committee was scheduled to be held Wednesday, April 19, 2006. She said the General Revenue Estimating Conference would meet Wednesday, April 12, 2006.

Dr. Rosenberg counseled patience on the governance legislation. He said staff were collecting information from the universities so the legislation would adequately and correctly reflect the will of the Board. He said he was working closely with Representative Pickens. He also reported that staff were working diligently on a Debt Management Policy, as directed by the Board. Ms. Shirley was working with Mr. Ed Poppell and the other members of the Council for Administrative and Financial Affairs, and hoped to bring a policy to the Board in late April, which would give confidence to all stakeholders that the Board was exercising proper management of university debt.

Mrs. Roberts cautioned that there were some issues of continuing concern to the Board captured in the governance legislation, as currently proposed. She encouraged Board members to continue their conversations with members of the Legislature.

5. Adjournment

Having no further business, the Chair, Mrs. Roberts, adjourned the telephone conference call meeting of the Florida Board of Governors at 9:25 a.m., April 7, 2006.

Carolyn K. Roberts,
Chair

Mary-Anne Bestebreurtje,
Corporate Secretary