

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
Student Affairs and Campus Life Committee  
March 25-26, 2009**

**SUBJECT:** The New G. I. Bill and Florida BOOTS to BOOKS

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**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION**

For review and consideration

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Section 7(d), Art. IX, Florida Constitution  
Board of Governors Regulation 8.012

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

A comprehensive Post 9/11 GI Bill was passed by the U.S. Congress in 2008 that will provide a significant increase in funds to support veteran students and their pursuit of a postsecondary degree. The law will take effect in August 2009 and is expected to result in a large influx of veteran students, perhaps doubling present enrollments. To prepare for an increase in veteran student enrollments, the State University System, the Florida College System, and the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs have engaged in a collaborative inter-sector initiative called **Florida BOOTS to BOOKS**. The two-prong initiative includes a veteran student support services project along with a companion public information campaign.

The public information campaign will include, but not be limited to, public service announcements, a central Web site designed for veteran students, and coordinated linkage with state, institution, and other agency efforts. The Web site for this initiative is under construction.

To initiate the veteran student support project, university staff members responsible for veteran student services and certification assisted with identifying programs, services, and staffing that will be needed to respond to these new enrollments. The accompanying chart provides the summarized university recommendations for veteran student services organized into the broad categories of student support services, peer support and transition services, and policy revisions to improve access and transition.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Chart of draft recommendations

**Facilitators / Presenters:** Governor Ann Duncan