

MINUTES
FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
CHANCELLOR SEARCH COMMITTEE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 20, 2005

Mr. Rummell, Chair, convened the meeting of the Chancellor Search Committee of the Board of Governors by telephone conference call, Room 1605 Turlington Building, Tallahassee, Florida, at 3:00 p.m., October 20, 2005, with the following members present: John Dasburg, Sheila McDevitt, Ava Parker, Dr. Martha Peláez, Carolyn Roberts, and Dr. Zach Zachariah. Also present on the call were: Dr. Akshay Desai, Ann Duncan, Bill McCollum, and Chris Schoonover.

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held September 21, 2005

Mr. Dasburg moved that the Committee approve the Minutes of the Meeting held September 21, 2005, as written. Mrs. Roberts seconded the motion, and members of the Committee concurred.

2. Discussion, Chancellor Search

Mr. Rummell said the Committee had been engaged in important conversations. He said he believed the Committee had now progressed from the data collection stage, and was now ready to make decisions. He said he felt the Committee had followed a good process. Members had received resumés and information on 24 applicants/nominees, and had reviewed these individuals for their suitability for this important position. He said he had asked staff to speak with each Committee member to ascertain those individuals they wished to discuss today. He said the Committee had thus far avoided specific conversations about specific candidates, but that this was now the appropriate time for these discussions.

Mrs. Roberts thanked Mr. Rummell for his outstanding leadership of this search. She said he had recognized the complexity of this process from the outset and had dedicated considerable time and energy to this search. She said as Chair, she believed strongly in delegating responsibilities to Board members, and Mr. Rummell's work proved her right.

Mrs. Roberts said that Mr. Rummell had presented the Committee with a vision of what the State University System needed. The System needed someone who understood the many complex issues in Florida, someone who was respected in the academic world and was aware of Florida's unique political climate, someone who could interact with the members of this Board, the University Boards, the Presidents and Legislators. She noted that Mr. Rummell had said that the candidate would most likely be found in someone who was not looking for a new job. She said the Committee members had been proactive in looking for candidates; the position had been advertised broadly in efforts to broaden the base of candidates. She said Mr. Rummell

had encouraged the Committee to think about candidates outside the university world who might bring other talents to the position.

She noted that a distinguished Floridian and businessman, Mr. Armando Codina, had submitted an eloquent nomination of Provost Mark Rosenberg, Florida International University. She said she was impressed by this candidate and by his nominator, and she recommended that the Committee give this candidate careful consideration. She said she had known and worked with Dr. Rosenberg for the past 10 years, and with his nomination, she suggested Dr. Rosenberg would make an excellent Chancellor.

Dr. Martha Peláez said she had been an active participant of the Faculty Senate at FIU and had served on numerous University and statewide committees working closely with Dr. Rosenberg. She said she was confident in speaking about Dr. Rosenberg's management abilities and his abilities in working with faculty members. She said he was well respected by the faculty and staff at FIU. She commented on his unique and wonderful human qualities. She said his work ethic was exemplary. She said she knew he would play an essential role in the SUS achieving excellence.

Dr. Peláez said that in his role as Provost, Dr. Rosenberg had mastered the criteria for the accreditation of every program at FIU, and had given each program very careful scrutiny. He had also participated extensively during FIU's SACS accreditation review. She said that Dr. Rosenberg also interacted well with students; on his door was a sign, "Every student counts." She noted that Dr. Rosenberg had also worked with the DOE's Articulation Coordinating Commission and had been an early and long-time advocate for seamlessness in education in Florida. She said that he had worked on developing the Academic Learning Compacts and the System's accountability measures. She said he had also participated in the Board's discussions of its Strategic Plan and understood the Board's goals.

She said, personally, she would miss him, but that, for the whole System, he would bring out the best in the universities. She said after working for many years alongside him, Dr. Rosenberg knew the Florida education system very well.

Mr. Rummell said the Committee had had a lot of discussion about Dr. Rosenberg. He said that staff had learned that there were four other candidates remaining to be discussed: Thomas Hanley, Vice President and Professor, Auburn University; Larry Lemanski, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, Florida Atlantic University; L. Preston Mercer, Vice President, Campus Executive Officer, University of South Florida; and J. Michael Mullen, Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.

Ms. McDevitt said she thought there were a number of candidates who presented excellent credentials on paper. She said she had considered what was important to the System at this time. She said she was impressed by Dr. Rosenberg's credentials and by the breadth of his experience. She said he could engage well on every topic faced by this Board. She added that a professional colleague at TECO was very supportive of Dr. Rosenberg. She said he was a person the State University System needed at this time in its development under the Board of Governors. There was much to be done. She said that Dr. Rosenberg was familiar with all the "players" in education in Florida,

and was tuned in to all the issues. She said the candidates mentioned by Mr. Rummell were also well qualified, but that Dr. Rosenberg was the best fit to the Committee's search criteria.

Mrs. Roberts noted that these were the candidates whose applications/nominations she had reviewed most closely. She noted that Dr. Betty Capaldi, former Provost at UF, had also been a candidate before she had withdrawn her name from consideration. She noted that this was a unique time for this Board as its duties were evolving. She said she hoped staff would note the Board's appreciation to the other candidates for entering this search, but that Dr. Rosenberg seemed to be the right "fit" for the current time.

Dr. Zachariah said he was curious why there more not more national candidates on the list. He inquired if the Committee would now conduct interviews.

Mr. Rummell said it would be fantastic if the Committee reached consensus on a candidate at this meeting. If that did not happen, the Committee could whittle the number of candidates and discuss its next steps.

Dr. Zachariah said he agreed that Dr. Rosenberg was qualified, but he thought the Committee should talk with two or three of the candidates.

Mrs. Roberts said she should have named this committee a Selection Committee, as she had hoped the Committee would recommend one candidate to the Board for its consideration. She said she was confident the Board would be comfortable with the Committee's recommendation.

Ms. Parker said that she was comfortable with Dr. Rosenberg's academic qualifications for the position. She inquired about his familiarity with the Legislature. Mrs. Roberts said Dr. Rosenberg had worked for some years with Legislators who were preparing to assume leadership positions in the Legislature.

Ms. Parker moved that that Committee recommend Dr. Mark Rosenberg as its choice for the next Chancellor of the State University System. Mr. Dasburg seconded the motion.

Mr. Dasburg said he had tremendous respect for Dr. Zachariah and for his thoughtfulness. He said he wanted to elaborate on the tremendous challenges facing this Board. He said this Board had now been in place a little over two and one-half years without a staff of its own. He said he was not deprecating the service of Dr. Austin, who was actually reporting to the State Board of Education and to different priorities. He said he would compare this to a situation where his CEO, COO and CFO were all reporting to another corporation. He said this had been an unsatisfactory situation; it had set the Board behind and it had set the SUS behind. He said this past July, the Board got its own staff. He said the challenges ahead were immense. He said if the Committee has a first-rate candidate, he recommended getting the Chancellor on board.

He said he was pleased if Dr. Rosenberg was willing to leave his post at FIU. He said Dr. Rosenberg had a “gold-plated” Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. He said Dr. Rosenberg was fluent in Spanish. Mr. Dasburg said that both publicly and one-on-one, he was unqualifiedly impressed with Dr. Rosenberg and his credentials for this position. He said it would be a mistake to come out of this Committee with anything besides its unanimous endorsement of Dr. Rosenberg, which he recommended. He said he had seen or heard nothing to rebut his presumption that the Committee had a “platinum” candidate.

Dr. Zachariah agreed that Dr. Rosenberg was strongly and superbly qualified. He said he was concerned about the Committee taking this vote now. Ms. Parker inquired whether there were other candidates the Committee should discuss. If not, she said she was comfortable voting.

Mr. Rummell said the Committee had set out certain criteria for this position at the outset. He said they had been somewhat ridiculed for the description of their ideal candidate. He said they had found their candidate in Dr. Mark Rosenberg. They had said they were less concerned about a candidate from the traditional academic ranks and were interested in someone who might have other qualifications. Dr. Rosenberg had the academic experience, had explored partnerships in the business world, and the “gold-plated” degree. He was the right man at the right time.

Dr. Peláez said the Committee should not delay. There are many issues. The Board needed its Chancellor in place.

Mr. Dasburg called the question on the motion that the Committee select/vote Dr. Rosenberg as its recommendation for Chancellor to the full Board for its consideration. Mr. Rummell polled the Committee members individually. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend Dr. Rosenberg as the next Chancellor to the full Board for its consideration.

Mrs. Roberts thanked Mr. Rummell and this Committee for its excellent work. She recommended that Mr. Rummell phone Dr. Rosenberg. She said she would schedule the full meeting of the Board of Governors the following week by telephone conference call to ratify the selection of the Board’s next Chancellor.

3. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m., October 20, 2005.

Peter Rummell, Chairman

Mary-Anne Bestebreurtje,
Corporate Secretary