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FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
FEBRUARY 24, 2005

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The Chair, Carolyn K. Roberts, convened the meeting of the Board of Governors by telephone conference call, from Tallahassee, at 8:30 a.m., February 24, 2005, with the following members present: René Albors, Dr. Akshay Desai, Ann Duncan, Jarrett Eady; Dr. Stanley Marshall, Bill McCollum, Sheila McDevitt; Lynn Pappas; Ava Parker; Peter Rummell; John Temple; Commissioner John Winn; Dr. Dreamal Worthen; and Dr. Zach Zachariah.

1. Call to Order and Chair's Report

Mrs. Roberts apologized for the late change in the meeting plans, but advised the members that the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee was ill. She said she did not think the Committee should meet without him. She said that as she welcomed the new members, she wanted to thank the outgoing members. She said they had worked very hard on building this new governance system. She said the Governor, on Monday, February 21, 2005, had announced the appointment of six new members, although Ms. Lynn Pappas was one of the six. She welcomed Mr. Albors, Dr. Desai, Ms. Duncan, Dr. Marshall, Mr. McCollum, and Ms. Pappas, and said they would be invited to make remarks at the March Board meeting. She said they now served as voting members, although they were still to be confirmed by the Florida Senate.

Mrs. Roberts said she had spent a great deal of time on the previous day meeting with Legislators. She said a governance bill had been filed in the House and staff members were analyzing the bill. She said the Chancellor would call each Board member once the analysis was complete. She said that she had found Legislators to be respectful of the Board of Governors and to understand the importance of funding the universities. She said that they were all watching the Board and were aware of its work. She said it was still very early in the process, and assured members they would be well informed about the Session. She said that if the universities were not appropriately funded, this Board had failed in its responsibilities.

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held January 27, 2005

Mr. Temple moved that the Board approve the Minutes of the Meeting held January 27, 2005, as written. Ms. McDevitt seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred.

3. Consideration, Appointments, University Boards of Trustees

Mrs. Roberts said this Board was charged with making appointments to the University Boards of Trustees. As the Board had agreed at an earlier meeting, she said she and the Chancellor had discussed potential appointees and had presented their

recommendations to the Board for action. She said Board members had received these recommendations. She reported that all those recommended for Trustee positions had been contacted and had indicated their willingness to serve.

Dr. Worthen moved that the Board accept the list of individuals to be appointed to the University Boards of Trustees, as presented. Ms. McDevitt seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred.

4. Consideration, Joint Resolution to Amend Class Size Amendment

Mrs. Roberts reported that she had been in Tallahassee on February 14, 2005, to stand with many other educators and Legislators in support of the Governor as he proposed measures to give school districts flexibility to implement the Class Size Amendment. She said it had become apparent that the current requirement to meet the Class Size Amendment requirements classroom by classroom was placing great strains on the budgets of the school districts, as well as compounding their difficulties in finding enough qualified teachers to put into these classrooms. The proposal would be to calculate classroom size by the district average, as it was being done at present. It would advance the date of implementation to 2007, rather than 2010. Further, it would increase the minimum, first time, teacher salary to \$35,000, and state that future pay increases keep pay above the national average. She said the Governor had asked her for the support of this Board to the proposed Joint Resolution and Amendment to the Class Size Amendment.

Dr. Marshall said he was concerned about the trivialization of the Constitution, by including a recommended salary. He said this was the wrong way to proceed. He noted that AFSCME might try to add a minimum salary for other state employees.

Mr. Woodring said in a perfect world, the Constitution would be a succinct document. The Florida Constitution, however, already has provisions which should not be included, i.e., the provisions dealing with pregnant pigs. The Governor would likely agree that a provision on class size ought not to be in the Constitution. The purpose of this proposal is to mitigate the damage of the Amendment already approved by dealing with student learning and encouraging qualified teachers. He commented that Senator Webster was proposing to streamline the entire Constitution.

Dr. Marshall inquired whether this would lead to more serious problems. He wondered if the Board could persuade the Governor to limit the proposal to class size and address the salary issue elsewhere. Mr. Woodring said this was still a fluid process.

Mrs. Roberts noted that the Class Size Amendment affects the universities, because of the extreme funding demands required to comply with the current class size mandates.

Ms. Duncan moved that the Board support the proposed Joint Resolution and Amendment to the Class Size Amendment. Mr. Albors seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred, with Dr. Marshall and Dr. Worthen voting no.

5. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Austin said she would call Board members about other issues. She said she would also send new members orientation materials to prepare them for the work of this Board.

6. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Winn reported that the State Board had held a lengthy workshop on teacher production. He said the Department estimated that 30,000 new teachers would be needed to comply with the Class Size Amendment. He said the State Board had asked the Department to develop a comprehensive plan. The State Board felt that the Governor's proposed Joint Resolution would help attract highly qualified teachers.

He reported that the State Board had also discussed the issue of the award of baccalaureate degrees by the community colleges. The State Board was concerned that the State did not have a plan for meeting the needs for baccalaureate degrees. Mr. Handy was appointing a Task Force to look at the options for baccalaureate degrees in teacher education. Mrs. Roberts added that she was discussing with Mr. Handy possible appointees from the University System for this Task Force.

7. Adjournment

Having no further business, the Chair adjourned the conference call meeting of the Florida Board of Governors at 8:50 a.m., February 24, 2005.

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Carolyn K. Roberts,  
Chair

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Mary-Anne Bestebreurtje,  
Corporate Secretary