

MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
STUDENT AFFAIRS AND CAMPUS LIFE COMMITTEE
TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
MARCH 26, 2009

Chairperson Ann Duncan convened the Board of Governors Student Affairs and Campus Life Committee meeting at 9:00 a.m., March 26, 2009, in the Economic & Workforce Development Building at Tallahassee Community College. The following members were present: Vice Chair Stanley Marshall, Charlie Edwards, Frank Martin, A. J. Meyer, Judy Solano, and Gus Stavros.

1. Board of Governors Regulation for Public Notice

Chair Duncan announced that one BOG regulation would be reviewed and noticed at this meeting and explained that, following review and input from the universities, this regulation would be acted upon by the Board at its May meeting. Mrs. Duncan summarized BOG Regulation 6.0105-Student Conduct Code and Discipline, which was last amended in 2001 as a Board of Regents regulation. The proposed regulation aligns the minimum disciplinary system requirements with current university procedures for student disciplinary proceedings, and revises the terminology to reflect the national trend toward a more educational, as opposed to legalistic, language for addressing student conduct code violations. Mrs. Duncan said that the draft has been extensively reviewed and the proposed amendments resulted from feedback from the Council for Student Affairs, the Council of Academic Vice Presidents, and the university general counsels. Without objection, the Committee recommended that the draft regulation be forwarded to the full Board for noticing.

2. 2009 Committee Work Plan

Chair Duncan presented the draft Committee Work Plan and said that the plan includes seven topics: the Council for Student Affairs priorities, Florida Student Association priorities, Excessive Alcohol use, Veteran Student Services, financial aid issues, student health insurance, and BOG regulation work. She said that the Work Plan has been reviewed by the Council for Student Affairs and by the FSA and both groups have provided important input. Committee members had no additional issues for inclusion in the plan and approved the Work Plan as a living document that can be revised as the Committee proceeds through the coming year.

3. Florida BOOTS to BOOKS Initiative: The New GI Bill and Florida's Veteran Students

Chair Duncan introduced Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins Jr., Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs, who expressed to the Committee the importance of the new G.I. Bill in enhancing access for Florida veterans to the State University System. He confirmed that the outcome of this legislation will be to significantly increase the enrollment in the SUS of veterans. Admiral Collins expressed appreciation for the BOG initiative that will be proactive and plan for the delivery of veteran student support services.

Diane McCain described the strategic media campaign that is under development for the BOOTS to BOOKS Initiative. The campaign includes a distinctive Web site that will provide information and education for veteran students and will provide links to each university's veteran services programs. She reported that Governor Crist will initiate the launch of this campaign in the coming weeks.

Richard Stevens reviewed the work of the state-wide work group of university administrators who reviewed the campus needs in light of the projected influx of new veteran students. The group developed recommendations for student support services to meet the needs of veteran students. The critical recommendation identifies the value of ONE-STOP centers on campuses that veteran students can efficiently utilize for university programs and services. UNF President Delaney commented on the effectiveness of the UNF ONE-STOP Center in meeting the needs of veteran students. He will assist the Committee in identifying costs to establish and maintain a ONE-STOP Center.

Mr. Glen Hallowell, representing the Veteran Students Association, addressed the Committee and discussed the transition of veterans from military service to higher education. He emphasized the value of campus support services to ease this transition. Mrs. Staci Causey, wife of a veteran student, reaffirmed the need for a coordinated campus program that includes the involvement of veteran students in providing the needed services. Governor A.J. Meyer, on behalf of the Florida Student Association, expressed support for the BOOTS to BOOKS Initiative. Justin Levine and Dan Wojcik, representing the University of Florida chapter of the Student Veterans of America, discussed with the Committee transition issues for students as they relate to specific sections of the federal legislation.

President Genshaft discussed the involvement in veteran support services based on her leadership role in the American Council of Education. The University of South Florida has actively involved veteran students in the delivery of campus support services and would be willing to host a statewide conference on veteran student issues based on the new G.I. Bill.

Moving forward, Chair Duncan recommended a shared services approach for the SUS to fully implement the BOOTS to BOOKS initiative. BOG staff will work on a state conference during the coming months that will promote the GI Bill and the establishment of adequate campus support services for veteran students.

4. Student Financial Aid Access Project

Chair Duncan asked Dr. Dan Cohen-Vogel to provide an update of staff activities relating to his research on the utilization by SUS students of Pell grant funding. Dr. Cohen-Vogel said that staff is working with the Department of Education's Office of Student Support Services to link to the state's school districts and guidance counseling staff to provide information on strategies to increase student's awareness of and participation in financial aid programs, particularly the Pell grant program. He is continuing to work with ENLACE Florida, Inc. researchers and is investigating linkages with similar federal initiatives. The DOE Office of Student Financial Assistance and FACTS.org will also be involved to expand student's opportunities through information and participation.

5. Student Health Insurance: Update

Dr. Rogers provided an update of student health insurance issues and reviewed the recent activities of the SUS Student Health Center directors in providing information and making presentations to the 2009 Legislature. Three SUS directors testified at the Senate Higher Education Appropriations Committee on student health issues.

Dr. Rogers explained that two bills have been proposed this Spring that would require state university health centers to bill insurance carriers for health care services rendered to students. These bills were reviewed by the health center directors and their analysis was reviewed.

Lesley Sacher, Director of the FSU Thagard Student Health Center, provided a status report on the university's mandatory student health insurance program. Beginning in 2007, FSU has phased in the mandatory program for full-time students. Waivers are granted to students who verify sufficient existing health insurance coverage. Mrs. Sacher stated that as the program has been implemented, the number of policies sold has increased, resulting in a premium decrease. Mrs. Sacher explained that student's health status has a direct impact on retention and success at the university. Increasingly, students arrive on campus with complex medical issues, including diabetes, hypertension, cancer, eating disorders, psychiatric diagnosis, and organ transplants. Adequate health insurance ensures that health conditions are monitored, treated, and well-controlled while students are enrolled at a university. Mrs. Sacher was co-chair of the 2007 SUS Task Force on Student Health Insurance and reviewed activities of the task force since 2007.

Following discussion, Chair Duncan asked that the SUS task force be reconvened to provide an update to the Board of Governors on the status of the proposed legislation, to review current national and system-wide health insurance policies, and to consider shared efficiencies that may be gained within the SUS for the delivery of student health insurance. Board Chair McDevitt supported the work of the SUS task force and this new system-level emphasis in light of the proposed legislation. Board staff will work on establishing a streamlined SUS task force with a specific charge that highlights these issues in the coming months.

6. Report on SUS Council for Student Affairs Meeting

Chair Duncan reported on a March 10th meeting that she participated in with the SUS Council for Student Affairs (CSA). She said that the vice presidents provided feedback on the issues identified in the Student Affairs Committee Work Plan. Their input was based on four priorities that the CSA identified early in the development of the Work Plan: (1) alcohol and excessive drinking, (2) student health insurance, (3) veterans services, and (4) First Generation Grant Program and financial aid. Chair Duncan said that these issues have been incorporated into the Committee Work Plan. She announced that a conference call with the CSA is being planned for March.

7. Report on Florida Student Association (FSA) meeting

Chair Duncan called on Governor A. J. Meyer, President of the FSA, to update the Committee on two significant activities in the past month. Governor Meyer said that SUS students from around the State participated in a March 4th Rally at the CAPITOL in support of state university student issues, focusing on the need for a tuition increase that will enhance initiatives of quality throughout the System. Governor Meyer reported on a March 17th meeting of the FSA with Governor Crist and Lt. Governor Kottkamp in which the FSA members identified and discussed student issues and priorities with the Governor.

8. Adjournment

Chair Duncan adjourned the Committee meeting at 10:30 a.m. on March 26, 2009.