

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
ROOM 208
TURNBULL CONFERENCE CENTER
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
555 WEST PENSACOLA STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301
JANUARY 24, 2018

*Video or audio archives of the meetings of the Board of Governors
and its Committees are accessible at <http://www.flbog.edu>.*

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Tripp convened the meeting on January 24, 2018, at 4:37 p.m. with the following members present and answering roll call: Governors Link, Ciero, Frost (by phone), Morton, K. Patel, Stewart (by phone), Tyson, Valverde, and Zachariah. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Chair Tripp asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 09, 2017, committee meeting. Governor Valverde moved to approve and Governor Tyson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer's Report

Vice Chancellor Jan Ignash reported on activities of the Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) unit:

- Ms. Sikes together with SUS faculty and staff attended the Aerospace Industries Association's Florida Aerospace and Defense Workforce Summit, November 14 - 16, 2017.
- The Council of Academic Vice Presidents (CAVP) Academic Program Coordination Workgroup held a conference call on November 17, 2017 and reviewed 10 pre-proposals. The group's next meeting is in April in Tallahassee.
- ASA staff participated in several meetings with Florida College System staff to implement the Civic Literacy Competency Recommendations.
- Dr. Traki L. Taylor, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, attended the SACSCOC meeting, regarding the updated Principles of Accreditation, held December 2-5th, 2017, in Dallas, TX.

- Along with Florida College System colleagues, Dr. Ignash gave a presentation to the Constitution Review Commission on the implementation of the civic literacy legislation. Dr. Ignash also attended the House Postsecondary Education Subcommittee meeting on December 6, 2017, regarding the implementation of the Civic Literacy legislation.
- Dr. Christy England led a 2+2 sub-group workgroup meeting on December 7, 2018, regarding the information students receive on 2+2.
- On January 4, 2018, the Vice Presidents and Directors for Research held a teleconference to work out data definitions for the 17 metrics in the Research Dashboard. ASA hopes to present the dashboard at the March Board meeting.
- Dr. Ignash, Ms. Emily Sikes, and Mr. Jason Jones provided feedback via teleconference phone call with the Executive Director and lead researcher on the Florida Council of 100 report on SUS research.
- On January 10, 2018, ASA staff met with staff from the Department of Economic Opportunity to discuss the new Bureau of Labor Statistics labor market data projections and the changes to the methodology.
- On January 11, 2018, Dr. Ignash and other Board staff met with Representative Mariano to discuss the excess hours legislation.
- From January 22 - 23, 2018, Dr. Diana Barbu attended and presented at the 2018 Conference of the Florida Association for Institutional Research.

4. Academic Program Items - Board of Governors Regulations

A. Public Notice to Create Regulation 8.006 Civic Literacy

Next, the Committee considered a request for approval of public notice of intent to create Board Regulation 8.006: Civic Literacy. This proposed regulation is a result of a bill passed during the 2017 Legislative Session that requires Florida College System and State University System students to demonstrate competency in civic literacy as a graduation requirement, effective beginning with the Fall 2018 entering cohort.

Dr. Ignash noted that progress on implementing the civic literacy legislation was presented to the Constitution Review Commission as well as to a House legislative subcommittee.

Chair Tripp noted that this proposed regulation was a result of Governor Levine taking a stand on civic literacy. Governor Levine noted that the Board of Governors discussed civil literacy and then the Higher Education Coordinating Council made an official recommendation to the Legislature. Governor Tripp moved to approve public notice to create regulation 8.006 Civic Literacy. Governor Frost seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

5. Counselor and Advising Staffing Levels

Dr. Corey King, Chair of the Council for Student Affairs, provided data and information regarding SUS counselor and advisor staffing levels in response to a direct request from the Committee during its November 2017 meeting.

Dr. King clarified that on some campuses academic advising falls under the oversight of academic affairs and university provosts.

Dr. King noted that the International Association of Counseling Services recommends a staffing ratio of one FTE professional to every 1,000 to 1,500 students and reported that, as of February 2017, all but four SUS institutions fell below minimum health counseling staffing levels. He stated that by the end of the 2020-2021 academic year, institutions expect to hire an additional 44 staff into full and part-time positions, and these plans were outlined and presented to the Board in Fall 2017. The positions to be filled include psychologists, counselors, case managers, health and wellness coaches, and others depending on the needs of each institution. He also pointed out that some staff may initially be hired with non-recurring funds while the institutions work on identifying more permanent sources of funding.

Chair Lautenbach asked whether it was possible to revise the display of information to show how many counselors or staff an institution had, how many counselors and staff an institution needed, and the date for when the institution would meet the correct staffing ratio. Governor Tripp asked Dr. Ignash and Dr. King to respond to this request.

Governor Link stated that the mental health counseling and staff-to-student ratio is typically based on enrollments, and Dr. King concurred stating that the staffing plans and projected ratios account for changes in enrollment.

Governor Morton stated that institutions should make funding mental health a priority.

Governor Valverde suggested the institutions consider implementing a first-year course that may assist with some of the mental health issues that students are facing, similar to the courses now in place at medical schools for new residents.

Governor Tripp stated that institutions are understaffed with respect to mental health counselors, and staff and the Board are working towards getting every institution up to the appropriate staffing levels to better serve students.

Governor Tyson asked how the institutions were handling the mental health issues and needs of distance learning students. Dr. King responded that the majority of institutions provide 24-hour online counseling services to meet the needs of distance learning students.

Governor Tyson then asked if there had been a change in the use of online counseling services versus in-person counseling services. Dr. Kirk Dougher, Chair of the Counseling Center Directors, responded that each institution has developed a variety of strategies to address the needs of distance learning students. Dr. Dougher stated that there was not a substantial increase in the number of students using online counseling services. Governor Tyson asked whether Dr. Dougher felt that online students were being served as well as traditional face-to-face students. Dr. Dougher reported that online students tend to not seek out services as much as traditional students regardless of residence (on-campus/off-campus). Governor Tyson stated that it would be useful for the Board to hear best practices regarding how to provide counseling services for online students. Dr. Dougher agreed with providing best practices as long as best practices were defined empirically and not simply as what was in common practice.

Governor Link asked whether online students are charged an online student services fee. Provost Glover, from the University of Florida (UF) stated that UF Online is governed by statute, and the statute governs which fees UF Online students pay. He stated that institutions have more latitude to shape the fees assessed to students who are taking non-state funded courses and that the fees required for non-state funded courses may vary between institutions. Provost Glover clarified that state-funded courses are funded through the legislature and that non state-funded courses are funded through distance and continuing education funds.

Governor Tripp asked Dr. Ignash to arrange a meeting for him, Governor Link and others as appropriate, to further discuss the counselor-to-student ratios, funding for counselors, and the funding and fees for students in online courses.

Dr. King then presented information on the current academic advising capacity and noted that the National Association of Academic Advisors is the professional association for academic advisors. He stated that the Association does not issue recommendations regarding an official ratio for the number of students per academic advisor. Dr. King stated that one of the reasons ratios are not used is because academic advising can vary from student to student, as can the implementation of advising across institutions and within a single institution. Academic advisors can include full-time professional advisors, part-time staff advisors, or faculty members who advise as part of their workloads.

Governor Tripp asked whether there was a specific academic advisor need that had been identified in the system and if that information could be provided. Dr. King responded that each institution has found a way to address the academic advising needs of its population of students and that specific institutional information could be provided.

Governor Tripp stated that in the past when institutions have had problems, the issue of academic advisors has surfaced and institutions often stated that they needed more academic advisors to address issues. He asked FAU President Kelly if he felt that more advisors had kept his students on track. President Kelly concurred and stated that increasing academic advisors was part of FAU's improvement plan.

Governor Tripp stated that even though there is not a national ratio for academic advisors, institutions should have an understanding of what works and what does not work with respect to academic advising. Governor Link asked if the Board was willing to give institutions flexibility to meet their academic advising needs because needs vary.

Governor Tyson stated that academic advising and mental health counseling are very different and that institutions do not have metrics to evaluate how well mental health counselors are performing. However, he noted that institutions have several metrics, like graduation rates, to evaluate how well academic advisors are performing, and did not see the need to push institutions for a ratio for academic advisors. He did, however, see the need for an institutional mental health counseling ratio.

Governor Tripp stated that the Board should have additional conversations about what academic advising looks like system-wide, if academic advisors are performing well, and if improvements in academic advising can be made.

6. Florida State University Update

Florida State University President John Thrasher provided an update on the interim suspension of fraternities and sororities at Florida State University (FSU) since the November 9, 2017, Board Meeting. FSU is still in the process of discussing the suspension of Greek Life with many stakeholders and plans to have a more specific and detailed update at the March Board meeting.

President Thrasher stated that FSU was working on three broad areas: 1) increasing the number of staff who can provide oversight for the organizations on FSU's campus, 2) reviewing the education and training needed to improve the health and welfare of FSU students, and 3) reducing risk by implementing new guidelines for fraternity initiation and the length of time initiation takes and addressing hazing and alcohol issues.

President Thrasher stated that his goal is to be vigilant, bold and accountable, creating metrics to measure progress. He stressed the need to continue to work with the students and student organizations that are affected and to avoid having all input come from the top down. He closed by stating that FSU remains committed to working with the new Alcohol, Drugs, and Mental Health Task Force that Governor Lautenbach has created and will continue to keep the Board informed.

7. Academic and Student Affairs Updates

A. SUS Council of Academic Vice Presidents (CAVP)

Dr. Gary Perry, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, FAU, Chair of the CAVP, reported on the following activities:

- Dr. Perry clarified that at most universities, academic advising is under the purview of the provost or under academic affairs. He noted that Governor Tripp was correct in that the number of academic advisors was increased at FAU when Dr. Kelly arrived, and that FAU's success in the student metric may have been a result of this increase.

Governor Tripp clarified that the focus was not only on the number of academic advisors, but also on the quality of academic advising. Additionally, he noted that there was a need for a broader discussion.

Dr. Perry discussed how FAU approached the problem of academic advisers. He noted that the University increased the number of full-time advisers to about 80, but noted that faculty have also been doing advising as part of their assignments. The advising FTE has been around 130 and FAU's goal was to get the advising ratio down to 300 students per adviser. Finally, Dr. Perry noted that this approach worked well for FAU, but he did not want to set a ratio "in stone" for the System. He also stated that he would discuss the issue with the CAVP and work with the Council for Student Affairs and with Dr. King.

- Dr. Perry noted that the Steering Committee for Online Education, comprised of six CAVP members and chaired by Provost Wilcox, met on January 24, 2018, to review the progress in implementing the Board's Online Strategic Plan. The Steering Committee met with the leaders of the various work groups to check progress on implementing the strategies in the strategic plan. The Steering Committee heard several reports and tomorrow (January 25, 2018) the Board of Governors will meet to approve the technology scorecard that was developed by the Infrastructure and Shared Services Workgroup, to be presented during the Board's Innovation and Online Committee meeting.
- Dr. Perry reported that, at the January 24, 2018, CAVP dinner, a proposal was discussed that was made by the Dean of Engineering at the University of Central Florida to create a Florida Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. Other states, such as Texas and Virginia, have similar academies. Their missions are to study issues in science, engineering, and medicine, of concern to the people of the state. The benefit of the proposed Academy would be to

significantly raise the visibility and recognition of the state's intellectual expertise and capabilities to the national level.

- The CAVP group also planned to discuss the new Task Force on Drugs, Alcohol, and Mental Health, the new standing Committee on Academic and Research Excellence, and the implementation of civic literacy requirement. Dr. Perry congratulated Dr. Ignash on the progress made in implementing the civic literacy requirement with the Florida College System and the Department of Education.

B. SUS Council for Student Affairs (CSA)

Dr. Corey King, FAU Vice President of Student Affairs and CSA Chair, provided the CSA report.

- Dr. King reported that the Council for Student Affairs co-hosted the Health and Wellness Campus Community Summit in Tallahassee on January 23, 2018, with the Florida Student Association. There were approximately 90 participants including vice presidents for student affairs, student leaders from Greek councils, Greek life advisors, deans of students, and mental health providers. The issues discussed included alcohol and drugs, sexual assault, mental health, hazing and how the SUS and student affairs organizations can make bold and significant shifts in the Greek system to address ongoing issues.

The Summit was facilitated by Dr. Kevin Kruger who is the President of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. Dr. Kruger noted that Florida can be a leader by making bold and significant shifts within the Greek system and other student organizations.

Dr. King also stated that the Council for Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Florida Student Association and the SUS student body presidents, support the three broad areas that President Thrasher and Florida State University have identified as focus areas. He added that the Council of Student Affairs and the Florida Student Association will continue to provide guidance to chief student affairs officers toward concrete system-wide recommendations that will shift campus cultures.

C. Florida Student Association (FSA)

Governor Kishane Patel, Chair of the Florida Student Association, provided the FSA report.

- Governor K. Patel provided an overview of the January 23, 2018 Health and Wellness Campus Community Summit from the students' perspective.

Governor K. Patel noted that over half of the participants at the Summit were student leaders, Greek council presidents, or student government representatives. He added that student leaders understand that institutions are facing a systemic issue, yet the Greek community also provides positive contributions to campus communities. Specifically, graduation rates were higher for students who were directly engaged with extracurricular activities, especially Greek life. Student organizations also foster a sense of campus community and provide opportunities for students to mature. These opportunities help lead to job placement. He noted that Greek organizations also help to develop the soft skills that employers want and which has been a focus of the Board.

Governor K. Patel stated that some changes were needed. Student leaders agreed to prioritize changes in values-based recruitment and member education as well as medical amnesty for individuals in organizations. Medical amnesty refers to encouraging students to call 911 for medical help and not let the fear of a Greek chapter being suspended or a student getting in trouble prevent it.

Governor K. Patel thanked Florida State University's President John Thrasher and Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Amy Hecht, for including the Florida Student Association in these conversations and for setting an example for the entire nation. He also emphasized the involvement of student leaders as a necessary part of the solution.

- Governor K. Patel also reported that the FSA has been lobbying for mental health awareness day, excess credit hours, and many other issues. The FSA's full-time students devote considerable unpaid time and energy to these issues. Governor K. Patel thanked the Board of Governors and the eight institutions that have met the staffing ratios. He stressed to the four institutions that have not set ratios that he hopes that it will be a priority and that they will be held accountable.

8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Tripp adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Norman D. Tripp, Chair

Traki L. Taylor, Ph.D.

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs