

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
JUNE 26, 2018

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and its committees are accessible at <http://www.flbog.edu/>.*

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Governor Levine convened the meeting of the Academic and Research Excellence Committee at 1:04 p.m. with the following members present: Governors Tripp, Jordan, Link, Patel, and Zachariah (telephone). A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Governor Levine asked for a motion to approve the March 28, 2018 minutes of the Committee. Governor Tripp moved to approve the minutes, Governor Patel seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Programs of Distinction Concepts

Chair Levine informed the Committee that the next item on its agenda was an update on the Programs of Excellence. Chair Levine reminded the committee of the requirement to deliver recommendations for how to identify Programs of Excellence to the Legislature by September 1, 2018. On March 2, Chair Levine reported that he met in-person for a three-hour workshop with all of the provosts and vice presidents for research from the 12 State University System institutions at University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa to discuss how to identify and rank programs of excellence. A work group of three provosts and three vice presidents for research was identified from this larger group to continue the discussion. Since then, Chair Levine reported that Chancellor Criser and Dr. Ignash met with senior legislative staff to discuss the intent of the legislation and the Workgroup also held a teleconference meeting to develop a conceptual outline. Chair Levine then called on Dr. Ignash, Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, to present a conceptual outline of the Programs of Excellence.

Dr. Ignash reported that in meetings with senior legislative staff, Board office staff received insight on the intent of legislation regarding Programs of Excellence. First, the

legislative intent was that these programs would include all State University System institutions. Second, legislative staff did not want to include new or emerging programs, rather programs that are already nationally or internationally recognized or on the cusp. In addition, Programs of Excellence must be able to demonstrate increased reputational power through metrics. Finally, Dr. Ignash reported that legislative staff said that they did not want a list of programs, but rather a report with options on how to identify and define programs. She also stated that based on the Board's report, the legislature would select the concept they wanted to use.

Dr. Ignash presented the three concepts that would fit the criteria outlined by legislative staff. The first concept (Concept A) is a multi-institution collaborative design. An example of this would be the Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence in Rhode Island. The goal of this concept is to develop expertise in a program among several institutions in the state university system.

Dr. Ignash commented that the second concept (Concept B) is based on unique programs of excellence. This is a more traditional idea of what a program is, for example Florida State University's program of dance which is already recognized nationally. This concept is easier to measure because academic rankings often exist for narrowly defined programs.

Dr. Ignash stated that Concept C is a hybrid approach to Concepts A and B. This includes research, scholarly, and/or creative areas of excellence. It incorporates both A and B, but in a hierarchy or decision tree. One example is improving human health where there is a decision tree illustrating how research centers, departments, and academic degree programs could all be included.

Dr. Ignash stated that these concepts allow for all institutions to participate and also allow for cross-institutional and/or cross-discipline collaboration. Dr. Ignash noted that it is important to build on recent efforts to strengthen research across the system. Recent research workshops in Washington D.C. have included discussions with federal agency staff who mentioned they want to fund big ideas that cross disciplines, such as artificial intelligence. This summer the Work Group will continue to identify metrics and define areas of excellence more clearly. Chair Levine mentioned the continued importance of this work to not only meet the legislative requirements, but to have a long-term strategy for research.

4. Florida Council of 100 Research Presentation

Chair Levine introduced Mr. Lee Arnold, Chair of the Florida Council of 100 Higher Education committee, to present on two reports recently published by the Florida Council of 100: *Best Practices in Business-Academic R&D Collaboration*, and *100 University Ideas for Enhancing Business-University Collaboration in Florida*. Chair Levine also

recognized Ms. Rhea Law and Mr. Bob Ward from the Council of 100 in the audience and thanked them for the work they have been doing.

Mr. Arnold reported that the Florida Council of 100 has been working on the university research project for over 18 months and then provided the Committee with an overview of how the Council conducted research for the two reports. The Council sought to find out what is the return on investment and what is Florida getting for the \$2.4 billion annual investment in research and development. The reports state that there are clear academic and economic benefits to the state generated by university research, but that Florida can further maximize the funding by narrowing the focus to increase collaborative efforts. Mr. Arnold mentioned that the Programs of Excellence may be one approach. In the future, if the money is being spent at its optimal level, research and development is a good way to improve the economy and be competitive with other large states. Mr. Arnold then described the report's recommendations that include more collaborations among universities, a focus on "game changers" that include cluster-based initiatives and development of innovation districts, increasing seed and early stage capital to university and business partnerships, and creating a business portal.

Chair Levine asked if Mr. Arnold saw any areas where the Council of 100 and SUS were not aligned in the work being done by the vice presidents for research and provosts. Mr. Arnold said that Council of 100 members and staff see much fast-moving alignment between the SUS and Council of 100. He feels that the reports are reinforcing efforts going on by the Chancellor and Chair Levine's committee. He also noted that the execution has to occur now, given all the competition for the federal research dollars.

Chair Levine mentioned that some great collaboration is already taking place between many of the institutions. He said he was impressed that the provosts and vice presidents for research were eager to figure out how to bring all 12 of the universities together and how each university contributes to the overall objective, for example improving human health. Chair Levine also stated that each state university has initiatives and programs that can contribute to that overall goal. The approach the Board is taking is a way to engage each institution in areas they are already focused on, which meets the legislative requirement, but also enables the SUS to address a statewide policy through result-driven outcomes. Chair Levine said that this is a long-term process, but from a policy and philosophical standpoint the business community is 100% aligned with our institutions right now. Governor Link added that the collaboration part is so important and private universities are also potential partners too. Chair Levine mentioned that the state universities collaborate more than people are aware, for example Florida State University and the University of Florida and have been partnering on the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (MagLab) for a long time. He mentioned that step one is prioritizing, step two is recruiting faculty and with that comes the research funding. Chair Levine thanked Mr. Arnold and said that he

was grateful that the Council of 100 was engaged in this issue and looked forward to continuing to work together.

5. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Levine adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Alan Levine

Emily Sikes
Director, Workforce Education and
Economic Development