

MINUTES  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE  
NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA  
SARASOTA, FLORIDA  
September 13, 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 11:34 a.m. with the following members present: Governors Tripp, Jordan, Link, and Patel. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Governor Levine asked for a motion to approve the June 26, 2018 minutes of the Committee. Governor Jordan moved to approve the minutes, Governor Patel seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Programs of Excellence Report and Legislative Budget Request

Chair Levine informed the Committee that the next item on its agenda was to consider approval of the Programs of Excellence Report and Legislative Budget Request. Since March, a work group of university provosts and vice presidents for research have worked to develop the framework and recommendations that appear in the report. In addition, all 12 State University System institutions had the opportunity to review and provide feedback on this report. Chair Levine stated that he believed the recommended framework included in the report will allow the state of Florida to provide investments in strategic areas that are important to Florida's future and allow the State University System (SUS) an opportunity to build on each institution's strengths. Chair Levine then called on Ms. Emily Sikes, Director of Workforce Education and Economic Development, to provide an overview of the Programs of Excellence report.

Ms. Sikes reported that the Programs of Excellence Workgroup of Provosts and Vice Presidents for Research convened in July to meet with Chair Levine and selected a framework for the report. In August, Acting Vice Chancellor Dr. Christy England shared a draft of the report with all 12 State University System Provosts and Vice

Presidents for Research for comment. Ms. Sikes reported that in late August, the Chancellor submitted the Programs of Excellence Report to the Legislature pending approval by the Board of Governors.

Ms. Sikes presented the recommended framework in the Programs of Excellence Report. The framework involves the Legislature selecting a big idea and then multiple sub-areas could be included under the idea. Ms. Sikes reported that the next tier of the framework would involve State University System institutions identifying departments, research centers, or units that fit under the idea. Finally, institutions could also identify academic programs across discipline and degree levels that could fit under the idea.

Chair Levine interjected to explain how once a big idea is identified, institutions can participate whether it be a center of excellence, workforce development, or research. The framework allows individuals to see how research translates to action.

Ms. Sikes then provided an overview of some of the big ideas identified by the workgroup. These ideas centered around three themes: a healthy Florida, a secure Florida, and a prosperous Florida. The ideas included under these themes are ones that could also leverage federal funding to help sustain this program over time. Ms. Sikes then presented the Board's Legislative Budget Request for the Programs of Excellence initiative. The request is for \$60 million over two years, with the intent that the funding support at least two ideas per year. Ms. Sikes mentioned that it is envisioned that the funding is appropriated to the Board of Governors and that there would be an application and award process that the Board would oversee.

Chair Levine added that the goal was to not simply invest in research for the sake of research, but to create collaboration across the state and use the collective strengths to solve problems. Furthermore, this approach would also differentiate the SUS from other states and universities when competing for grants.

Chair Lautenbach asked whether the Committee selected which ideas to move forward with the Legislative Budget Request. Governor Levine said that staff would reassemble the workgroup and get input from the State University System institutions on which ideas would be priorities to move forward with the recommended framework to the Legislature. Chancellor Criser mentioned that the process and accountability reporting could follow how the Board implemented the TEAm grants a few years ago. He added that this would be helpful in explaining to the Legislature how the funding was used and whether the program was successful. Governor Levine stated that this program is not intended to supplant existing work being done in research or programs of excellence at each university, rather it is an opportunity for universities to agree on what problems universities want to address together.

Chair Levine asked for a motion to approve the Programs of Excellence Report. Governor Patel moved to approve the report, Governor Jordan seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Next, Chair Levine asked for a motion to approve the Legislative Budget Request of \$30 million for fiscal year 2019-2020 to support the Programs of Excellence. Governor Patel moved to approve the request, Governor Jordan seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. State University System Research Compared to Other States' Systems

Chair Levine reported that next on the agenda was to continue a discussion from March regarding State University System's research compared to other states. Chair Levine then introduced Ms. Emily Sikes to provide some additional data points.

Ms. Sikes presented data that showed that the State University System ranks fourth in research expenditures compared to other public systems. California, Texas, and Michigan are all ahead of the State University System. Both California and Texas have multiple universities ranked in the Top 25 in terms of research. The State University System looks similar to Michigan, but with a key advantage - Florida has more universities in the Top 100, which gives the State University System a huge opportunity for growth. Part of the conversation in March was around faculty, and when comparing the numbers of faculty across states, the State University System is much lower; however, something to keep in mind is the State University System has fewer institutions than California and Texas.

Ms. Sikes then reported on the research expenditures per faculty member. Although different institutions may use other systems to track this information and there are some caveats when rolling up the data in this manner, this method gives the Board some context on how well State University System faculty do at securing competitive research funding. While the System is lower in terms of the number of faculty, the funding per faculty ratio is much higher than other states. A conclusion that can be drawn from this data is that State University System faculty do extremely well in securing competitive and larger awards. Since research data tends to lag a few years behind, these totals do not include recent efforts the state has made, including the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program.

Ms. Sikes then invited two of the vice presidents for research to the podium to give the committee their perspective on the World Class Faculty and Scholars Program. Dr. Gary Ostrander, Vice President for Research at Florida State University and Dr. Paul Sandberg, Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge Enterprise at the University of South Florida both provided examples of recent World Class Faculty and Scholar hires. Dr. Ostrander provided one example of a recent

faculty hire. Florida State University recruited and hired Dr. Carrie Pettus-Davis from the University of Washington. Her research focuses on lowering recidivism, and since arriving at Florida State University, she has either transferred or secured approximately \$4.7 million in research funding. Dr. Ostrander mentioned that this research funding is paying salaries of individuals and students to support this research, which is in turn putting money into the economy of Florida. Dr. Sandberg also provided examples of recent faculty hires for University of South Florida in the fields of cardiac health research and infectious disease. One of these hires includes Dr. Christian Brechot, the former head of the world-renowned Pasteur Institute in Paris. His research in antiviral drugs has yielded 13 patents, and he has been part of the creation of two bio-tech companies. Dr. Sandberg mentioned that Florida's public research universities are at the heart of the state's innovation ecosystem and that the World Class Faculty and Scholar program is strengthening Florida's competitiveness in the global economy and providing a return on investment to Florida's citizens.

#### 5. Legislative Budget Request for World Class Faculty and Scholars

Chair Levine presented the Board's 2019-2020 Legislative Budget Request for the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program. The funding is requested in support of the World Class Faculty and Scholar initiative to elevate the national competitiveness of Florida's public universities through the recruitment and retention of exemplary faculty and research scholars, as well as to increase the national academic standing of targeted programs. Investments may include, but are not limited to, research-centric cluster hires, faculty research and research commercialization efforts, instructional and research infrastructure, professional development, undergraduate student participation in research, awards for outstanding performance, and postdoctoral fellowships. For 2019-2020, the Legislative Budget Request for this initiative is \$20 million.

Governor Levine asked for a motion to approve the Legislative Budget Request of \$20 million to fund the World Class and Faculty Scholar initiative for fiscal year 2019-2020. A motion was made by Governor Jordan, seconded by Governor Patel, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### 6. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Levine adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

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Alan Levine, Chair

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Emily Sikes  
Director for Workforce Education and  
Economic Development