MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE
FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
MARCH 27, 2019

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1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Alan Levine convened the meeting of the Academic and Research Excellence Committee at 4:14 p.m. with the following members present: Governors Tripp, Jordan, Patel, and Zachariah (phone). A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting

Chair Levine asked for a motion to approve the January 30, 2019 minutes of the committee. Governor Patel moved to approve the minutes; Governor Tripp seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. SUS Research and Innovation Dashboard Update

Chair Levine informed the committee that the next item on the agenda was an update on the State University System Research and Innovation Dashboard. He stated that in September 2016, the Board approved a 19-metric research-focused dashboard to document the progress that the system is making to achieve national prominence in research. Chair Levine explained that the dashboard includes metrics that quantify research activity and progress in the categories of "Research Contracts and Grants," "Innovation," "People," and "ROI." Last March, the Academic and Research Excellence Committee heard the first presentation on this dashboard, and this second annual presentation of the dashboard provides an update of the system's progress across the 19 metrics. Chair Levine then called on Ms. Emily Sikes, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development, to provide an overview of the SUS Research and Innovation Dashboard.

Ms. Sikes provided an overview of the 2019 Research and Innovation Dashboard. She noted that the Board has been very committed to elevating the system's research profile over the last few years. Ms. Sikes delineated some of the initiatives devoted to this

effort, which includes the establishment of the Academic and Research Excellence Committee and the Board's support, along with the Legislature and the Governor, for the World Class Faculty and Scholar program. This program, Ms. Sikes detailed, allows SUS institutions to recruit and retain exemplary faculty and research scholars and to elevate the national competitiveness of Florida's universities. Ms. Sikes explained that another relevant initiative was the regular meetings by the Vice Presidents for Research across the system where institutions can share best practices and address system priorities. Additionally, Ms. Sikes identified the R&D workshop hosted by the system in Washington DC each year, which allows faculty and research staff to hear the funding priorities from federal agencies like NIH, NSF, and DOD. Ms. Sikes shared that a final initiative is the R&D dashboard, which is a tool that the Board approved in 2016 to chart the system's progress in research.

Ms. Sikes stated that the dashboard has four major categories: research contracts and grants, innovation, people, and return on investment. Ms. Sikes walked the committee through the first five metrics on the dashboard. She indicated that the years for the data vary across the metrics, and that detail was in the supporting documents in the packet for the meeting.

For the metrics included in the research and grants category, Ms. Sikes reported the system had seen a year over year increase across all five metrics. Ms. Sikes described that in terms of federal expenditures, the system had seen a 15% increase over the last five years. She stated that when compared to national totals, the system has had some much quicker growth, though the national totals for 2018 are not yet available.

Ms. Sikes proceeded to provide an update on the number of research grants between two or more SUS institutions. She expounded that this was a metric that Board staff worked on with the Vice Presidents for Research over the last year to better refine and collect, and this was the first year this data was available for the system. SUS research collaborations have been presented to this committee to highlight some of these initiatives across the system. Ms. Sikes explained that for the collaboration metric, the data included federal awards with a SUS institution being the lead, and that lead institution must collaborate with at least one other SUS institution to qualify for this category. Ms. Sikes reported that based on reports from SUS institutions, the system collaborated on 120 federal awards during the 2017-18 year, which represents a baseline number that will be collected and reported on again next year.

Ms. Sikes went on to describe the next set of metrics that fall under the innovation category, which includes patents awarded, licenses, startups, and industry related grants and contracts. Ms. Sikes indicated that again, most of these metrics showed year over year gains. She noted two exceptions being industry-related R&D and start-ups, and, as Vice Chancellor England mentioned during the Strategic Planning Committee meeting, these metrics tend to be volatile from year to year. Ms. Sikes brought specific

attention to the National Academy of Inventors Fellows metric. She remarked that in the last year, the system had eight new Fellows, which makes Florida the fourth highest across all the states (this ranking includes public and private institutions).

Ms. Sikes next expounded that the third category of the dashboard is people, which includes doctoral degrees awarded, postdoctoral appointees, national academy members, and the number of undergraduate students engaged in research. Ms. Sikes reiterated that, as Vice Chancellor England mentioned earlier, the metric titled undergraduate students engaged in research is one that staff continues to work on, with the Vice Presidents for Research taking the lead. Ms. Sikes highlighted that the available metrics in this category all showed year over year gains.

Ms. Sikes expressed that the last area of the dashboard is a return on investment, which includes metrics such as the number of jobs supported by external funding, and the economic impact of state and federal funding. She elucidated that the system continues to show gains on the metrics included in the return on the investment area. As the system's research expenditures have risen, she said, so have the number of jobs supported by external funding increased, along with the economic impact for both state and federal funding.

Ms. Sikes concluded by summarizing some key points from her presentation. She reiterated that the system continues to increase research expenditures, with the total coming in at over $2.3 billion for 2018 and federal expenditures increasing by 15% in the last five years. She also reminded the committee that the system is collaborating on 120 federal awards. Finally, she stated that the return on investment measures continue to show increases in the number of jobs and economic impact the system's research brings to the state of Florida.

Chair Levine commented that he greatly appreciates the attention turned towards research since Governor Lautenbach became Board Chair as it is shining a light on important work by the SUS institutions. He mentioned the number of lives saved by investing in the development of Taxol cancer medication created at Florida State University and the acquisition of Brammer Bio for $1.7 billion and the related research done at the University of Florida. Chair Levine pointed out the huge impact on the economy, the potential returns to the institutions, and the multiple benefits to society from innovative university research.

4. <u>SUS Research Collaboration Highlight: Florida-California Cancer Research, Education, and Engagement Health Equity Center</u>

Chair Levine announced that the next item on the agenda was a presentation highlighting a State University System research collaboration. The Chair explained that

at each meeting, this committee learns about a research collaboration between two or more State University System institutions, and this allows the Board to learn about innovative partnerships and collaborations across the system.

Chair Levine articulated that the committee would next hear a presentation from researchers at the Florida-California Cancer Research, Education and Engagement Health Equity Center. He stated that they will describe a collaboration between Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), the University of Florida (UF), and the University of Southern California (USC) and that the Center is supported by a five-year, $16 million partnership grant from the National Cancer Institute and is addressing cancer health equity in Black and Latino populations.

Chair Levine then called on Dr. Renee Reams and Dr. Ken Redda, Principal Investigators of the Florida-California Cancer Research, Education and Engagement Health Equity Center at FAMU, and Dr. Diana Wilkie, Principal Investigator, at UF, to deliver the presentation.

Dr. Reams began the presentation by explaining that the FAMU national cancer institute was awarded a five-year, $16 million partnership grant on September 19, 2018. She expounded that the grant was entitled CARE^2, which is an acronym standing for cancer, research, engagement, and education. Dr. Reams highlighted the strengths of the various partner institutions including FAMU, which has a minority student focus, UF, which has extensive cancer research expertise, and USC, which is a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated cancer center.

Dr. Reams described that the project would do innovative, translational research in black and Latino communities, especially regarding those cancers that show high mortality in these two race groups. Dr. Reams cited that, after five years, the research should result in an increase in community engagement, in underrepresented minority researchers trained, and in cancer health disparities research at all three institutions. Dr. Reams then provided an overview of the administrative structure of the effort. Dr. Reams noted that one important aspect of the project is that the collaboration may contribute to an increase in the number of NCI-designated cancer centers in Florida, of which there is currently only one (Moffitt Cancer Center).

Chair Levine interjected that the existence of NCI-designated cancer research centers is very important in pursuing research funding and that he was very pleased that UF was applying for this status.

Dr. Redda then began his portion of the presentation by introducing the leaders of the research education core for the project. Dr. Redda stated that the project intends to educate learners and researchers at all academic levels by engaging in hands-on training activities, participating in scientific and professional seminars and workshops,

engaging in networking and community outreach, and developing scientific communication skills through attendance in state and national meetings.

Dr. Redda outlined the benefits of the partnership to FAMU by stating that the university will gain administrative and managerial experience within the triad grant approach as well as expand the translational research portfolio and opportunities for students. He also explained that the partnership would contribute to an increase in peer-reviewed publications and the National Institutes of Health grant submissions. Finally, he expressed that the project will elevate the profile of cancer research at FAMU, which could lead to further collaborations with other institutions in the future.

In closing, Dr. Redda pointed out some cancer statistics relevant to this project, including that the U.S. cancer death rate has dropped 27% in the past 25 years. He also stated that the rate of prostate cancer new cases had declined by about 6.5% per year from 2007 to 2014. However, Dr. Redda stressed that there are still significant disparities in cancer-related deaths, which remain much higher for minorities.

Dr. Wilkie began her portion of the presentation by focusing on the disparities in cancer funding. She stated that while Florida ranks second in the nation for cancer-related cases and deaths, Florida is not proportionately funded for cancer research when compared to the other top five states of California, New York, Texas, and Pennsylvania.

Dr. Wilkie explained Florida has a diverse population representing many groups of Latinos, which presents unique research opportunities related to genomics. Dr. Wilkie then described the progress made by the project for the past six months, including new research endeavors, presentations, scientific publications, and awards. She mentioned that the ongoing initiatives of the project include providing global oncology research training opportunities for Florida minority students and establishing the Florida Cancer Health Disparities Translational Research (CHDTR) Center, which will strive to eliminate cancer care disparities in Florida. She also stated a goal is to establish a Florida minority biobank. Dr. Wilkie reported that two of the investigators from UF related to the project were also preeminent faculty hires.

Chair Levine thanked the presenters and reiterated the fact that Florida has the second highest incidence of cancer cases and deaths but has very low funding for cancer research comparatively. He stated that should be considered in the Board's continuing conversation on the strategic plan update as an opportunity for growth.

6. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Levine adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Alan Levine, Chair

Roger Strickland
Director, Economic Development