

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
INNOVATION AND ONLINE COMMITTEE
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
JANUARY 29, 2020

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Kent Stermon convened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. on January 29, 2020, with the following members present: Vice Chair Tim Cerio; Dr. Shawn Felton; H. Wayne Huizenga, Jr.; Zenani D. Johnson; Charles Lydecker; and Norman Tripp. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

Governor Felton moved that the committee approve the minutes of the October 30, 2019, meeting, as presented. Governor Tripp seconded the motion, and the members concurred.

3. SUS Textbook Affordability Action Plan

Chair Stermon reminded members that the committee and the full Board had approved the SUS Action Plan for the Pricing of Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials in August 2019 to provide students with access to quality and affordable textbooks and other materials. He said that the Chancellor and his staff were directed to pursue Letters of Commitment with publishers and university bookstore vendors to ensure students in the State University System will be paying less for materials than they currently pay and that students throughout the System will be paying consistent prices for the same materials.

Dr. Lynn Nelson said the components of the Action Plan included student cost of course materials; format of materials; student access to materials on the first day of class; student access to digital materials beyond the end of the course; students not paying twice for digital access if the course is dropped and taken at a later time; student options for print-on-demand for digital materials; accessibility for students with disabilities; and mechanisms for capturing and reporting faculty use of open educational resources and other no-cost resources. In addition, institutions would have access to data for reporting purposes.

She said that the first year of implementation of the Action Plan would be 2020-21, with outcomes reported in the 2020-21 annual report. Letters of Commitment from publishers and bookstore vendors were received by November 22, 2019, acknowledging and addressing the components of the initiative. Participating publishers include Cengage, Lumen Learning, Macmillan Learning, McGraw Hill Higher Education, Pearson, Wiley, W.W. Norton & Company. Letters of Commitment were also received from bookstore vendors Barnes and Noble College and Follett Higher Education Group. Dr. Nelson said Chancellor Criser recognized the participating entities as Torchbearers for their

commitment to student success. She said they were invited to use the SUS torch symbol to identify materials that met all of the components of the Action Plan. Faculty are not required to use materials with the torch symbol, but the torch will help them, as well as students, easily identify materials that meet the affordability initiative.

Dr. Nelson indicated that a communications campaign will help inform faculty, administration, and students of the initiative. Publisher representatives will have materials identified for faculty consideration for use in the 2020 Fall term.

Governor Shawn Felton said that faculty have been involved in this initiative from the beginning when Chancellor Criser and Dr. Nancy McKee reached out to them. He said the Board, administrators, and faculty are interested in offering a quality education while being cognizant of the cost to students. Dr. Felton stated that many faculty have already been developing and using materials to lower the costs to students, and the agreements with publishers will continue the effort to reduce costs.

4. UF Online Annual Report and the 5-year Business Plan

Mrs. Evie Cummings presented the 2019 Annual Report for UF Online, saying there is a great demand for and a high denial rate into UF Online. She said in addition to providing online majors, UF Online provides experiential learning opportunities, such as field work, to bring students into the campus community. She said ten colleges at the University of Florida offer majors residentially and online through UF Online.

Mrs. Cummings said UF Online has the results of a recent student survey they plan to administer annually. Other than PACE students who are traditional-aged university students, most of UF Online's students (40%) work 30 hours or more a week and a third of UF Online students have children at home.

She indicated that UF Online was recently named by U.S. News and World Report as #4 in the country for Best Online Bachelor's Program and #2 for Best Online Bachelor's Program for Veterans.

Mrs. Cummings said the UF Online Advisory Board requested she revise the enrollment projections in the comprehensive business plan due to the high denial rate and the fact that UF Online has not seen the high enrollments from Wal-Mart, Disney, and other companies that were originally expected. She stated the revisions have been approved by the Advisory Board.

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Stermon adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Nancy C. McKee, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor

Kent Stermon, Chair