

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
INNOVATION AND ONLINE COMMITTEE
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
July 21, 2020

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Kent Stermon convened the meeting at 1:54 p.m. on July 21, 2020, with the following members present: Vice Chair Tim Cerio; Dr. Shawn Felton; H. Wayne Huizenga, Jr.; Charles Lydecker; Ally Schneider; and Norman Tripp. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

Governor Tripp moved that the committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 5, 2020. Governor Lydecker seconded the motion, and the members concurred.

3. 2025 Annual Report for Online Education

Dr. Nancy McKee presented the 2019 Annual Report for Online Education. She said that when compared to public universities in other states, the State University System has the second-highest number of students taking distance-learning courses and the second-highest percentage of students taking distance-learning courses. She also mentioned that throughout the report, there are text boxes that highlight the awards and recognitions that universities have received for their quality online programs.

She said that the annual report has been a mechanism for capturing the level of engagement in online education, as well as the progress that universities are making to implement the tactics in the Strategic Plan for Online Education. The plan has 49 tactics in it and each one is related to the strategies and goals for Quality, Access, and Affordability.

Dr. McKee stated that 75% of undergraduates in the SUS took at least one distance learning course in 2018-19. UCF, UF, USF, and UWF had more than 80% of undergraduates who took at least one distance learning course, with the University of Florida having the highest percentage at 88%. She said that FAMU had the greatest one-year growth, going from 32% to 45% of their undergraduate students being enrolled in at least one distance learning course. She said that neither New College nor Polytechnic offered distance learning courses in 2018-19.

Dr. McKee said that 30% of undergraduate credit hours were taken in distance learning courses in 2018-19, a growth from 22% in 2014-15. There was growth in distance learning in every institution that offers distance learning courses. FAU grew the most,

percentage-wise, in undergraduate distance learning credit hours going from 11% in 2014-15 to 25% in that period. FAMU had the greatest one-year growth from last year, going from 6% to 10%. She said that the institutions whose students took at least 30% of their credit hours in distance learning courses were FIU, UCF, UF, USF, and UWF.

Dr. McKee stated that, system-wide, 53% of all graduate students took at least one distance learning course. UWF had the highest percentage, 88%, while most institutions were in the 50% to 60% range. She said that, systemwide, 31% of graduate credit hours were taken in distance learning courses. UWF had the highest percentage, 82%.

Dr. McKee explained that in terms of student demographics, SUS data showed that:

- Students taking only distance learning courses were on average older than students taking no distance learning courses, which is consistent with national data, and 64% were females.
- Of those undergraduate students taking only distance learning courses, 94% were Florida residents compared to 91% of those students taking no distance learning courses.

She said that the Board Office created a database to collect information about online programs, which are defined as online majors. In 2018-19, there were 504 online programs in the system and 61% of those were in Programs of Strategic Emphasis. In addition, 39% of SUS credit certificate programs were online, and approximately 42% of the non-credit programs were online.

Dr. McKee indicated that the annual report contained additional data, as well as narrative that describes programs and activities in the System related to online education, focusing especially on those related to the three elements of the 2025 Strategic Plan for Online Education: Quality, Access, and Affordability. As examples, she said that the narrative describes the process and standards used for the Quality Course Design Reviews; professional development activities being provided for instructional designers, institutional distance learning leaders, and staff who are responsible for professional development activities for faculty who teach online courses; and innovative strategies that are not only being implemented in the system, but are being shared through such activities as the Innovative Summit hosted by the University of Central Florida and the STEM Lab Symposium hosted by UF Online.

Governor Tripp moved to approve the 2019 Annual Report for Online Education. Governor Lydecker seconded the motion, and members concurred.

4. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Stermon adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

Kent Stermon, Chair

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