

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Innovation and Online Committee
October 30, 2019**

SUBJECT: Consideration of Online Courses in the Medical Schools Admissions Process

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For Information

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members of the Innovation and Online Committee have expressed interest in understanding the extent to which medical schools take online courses into consideration in the admissions process. Dr. Fogarty will be speaking on behalf of the SUS medical school deans to respond to the following questions:

1. Please share any policy and rationale regarding consideration of previously earned online credit in the admissions process of the SUS medical schools.
 - a. How is this communicated to prospective student applicants?
 - b. What evidence and/or data analysis were utilized in shaping this policy?
2. If different from the written policies, what are the admissions practices regarding online courses?
3. SUS student transcripts do not identify online courses. How do medical school admissions staff determine if a course was taken online?
4. What would alleviate the concerns of SUS medical schools, if any, regarding admitting students who had taken online courses?
 - a. Does the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), or other organization provide guidance to medical schools regarding the consideration of earned online credit, as part of the admissions process?
 - b. To what extent is this a national issue? What is the position taken by the nation's top medical schools with regard to consideration of earned online credit in the admissions process?

Several medical school deans and admissions staff met with the Steering Committee on October 2 to discuss these issues. The Steering Committee, which consists of six provosts and a non-voting member of the Board's staff, provides guidance to universities regarding the implementation of the *2025 Strategic Plan for Online Education*.

Supporting Documentation Included:

1. SUS Medical Schools Admissions Policies re: Courses Taken Online;
2. AAMC Statement
3. Article: "Many Colleges Still Frown at Online."

Facilitators/Presenters: Dr. John Fogarty, Dean, FSU Medical School, and Chair, Council of Medical School Deans