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STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL AND VIRTUAL MEETING
TALLAHASSEE, FL
MAY 5, 2020

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1. Call to Order

On May 5, 2020, Chair Sydney Kitson convened the telephone conference and virtual meeting at 3:25 p.m. with the following members present and answering roll call: Vice Chair Brian Lamb; Tim Cerio; Aubrey Edge; Shawn Felton; Patricia Frost; Zenani Johnson; Darlene Jordan; Alan Levine; Charles Lydecker; Steven Scott; Eric Silagy; Kent Stermon and Norman Tripp.

Chair Kitson opened the meeting by acknowledging those who have passed away from the COVID-19 virus, as well as the thousands of people who have been called to serve on the front lines of the pandemic. He said we all should be proud of what the universities have accomplished, including continuing to educate students while dually giving back to their communities and leveraging expertise to address critical challenges posed by COVID-19.

2. Chair's Report to the Board of Governors

In his remarks to the full board, Chair Kitson noted the impact of the COVID-19 virus on the universities, but emphasized that through it all, the State University System has maintained its focus on the health and well-being of its students, faculty, and staff and on fulfilling the core academic mission of teaching and learning.

Chair Kitson explained that during the past week, Governor DeSantis' Task Force to Re-Open Florida met daily to develop guidelines to re-open the state's economy. During the discussions, two recurring themes emerged: the health and safety of all Floridians, including employees and customers; and the importance of specific and easily understandable guidelines.

Chair Kitson acknowledged there are 12 distinctive universities within the System, with unique academic programs, student services, size and scope, and physical plants. He believes that under the constraints of the existing pandemic, a university plan to reopen will need to be deliberate, thoughtful, and provide a clear path to get to fall semester.

Recognizing that we are stronger when we work together as a System, Chair Kitson announced the creation of a task force that includes leaders from each university. The task force will create a phased-in approach for functions and operations, evaluate the resources needed for re-opening, and provide guidelines to promote the health and

safety of students and faculty. This will be a collaborative effort designed to minimize the risk of the transmission of the virus by using shared experiences and taking advantage of the scientific and medical expertise at the institutions. He indicated there will be an upcoming announcement for the plans to re-open the campuses for the fall semester. Chair Kitson concluded his remarks by thanking the Board of Governors staff and university staff for how well operations are being conducted.

3. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Criser thanked Board members for their continued support over the last few weeks. He said during the month of March, over 49,000 course sections were moved to remote learning across the System. Although it is an impressive data point, it is also a reflection of the enormous amount of energy and hard work by the universities, as well as by the students themselves. As summer semester approaches, there will be an approximately 11 percent increase in courses that will be offered to students. Chancellor Criser reminded everyone that as we talk about re-opening campuses, the universities continue to be open to the students.

Chancellor Criser discussed the social media posts from the Board office, under the title "SUS Doing Our Part", that feature faculty, staff and students who are participating in efforts to enhance our campuses and our university communities. He stated that commencements had just taken place and students who needed to graduate in spring, graduated in spring. Every university found a way to recognize students for their accomplishments and celebrate those accomplishments with students, their families and communities.

He talked about the ongoing discussions surrounding the availability of standardized testing; more specifically the availability of SAT and ACT testing. He noted the College Board is planning to provide in-person SAT testing, subject to given protocols at the time, in August, October, November and December. In addition, there are discussions about an additional SAT test being administered in September and the possibility of an online test if necessary. The ACT is planning to offer in-person ACT testing on June 13 and July 18. It has also scheduled test administrations for September, October and December. Chancellor Criser said Board staff is working closely with the universities to determine if the additional test dates and flexibility with admissions deadlines will work towards providing a solution.

4. Public Comment

Chair Kitson asked the Board's General Counsel Vikki Shirley if there were any requests for public comment for items on the Board's agenda. Ms. Shirley stated no requests for public comment had been received.

5. Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Lydecker moved approval of the slate of items on the Consent Agenda. Ms. Frost seconded the motion, and the members concurred unanimously.

6. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Kitson announced the next meeting of the Board will be held on June 23, 2020. The plan is for the meeting to be conducted remotely with an abbreviated, but informative, presentation of the university accountability plans. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m. on May 5, 2020.

Sydney Kitson, Chair

Vikki Shirley,
Corporate Secretary