

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
November 6, 2014

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendments to University Board of Trustee Selection and Reappointment Process

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approval of Amendments to University Board of Trustee Selection and Reappointment Process

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members will review and approve proposed amendments to the University Board of Trustee Selection and Reappointment Process. The amendments are designed to streamline the processes for the appointment and reappointment of university trustees and provide additional flexibility.

Under Section A.2 of the current process, the Chair is required to provide notice to the university board and president of upcoming trustee vacancies one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the expiration of the trustee terms, and within thirty (30) days following the resignation or removal of a trustee. At that time, the university chair and president may submit a list of nominees to fill the vacancies. In practice, this timeline has not proved efficient since it requires notification in June for upcoming January vacancies. The proposed amendment will delete this requirement and provide greater flexibility to the Chair to determine the appropriate notification period.

The current process only provides thirty (30) days for interested individuals to submit applications. This limitation has not proved conducive to attracting the most qualified applicants for the positions. The proposed amendment will extend the time period to a minimum of forty-five (45) days, and codify the current practice of extending the deadline, if deemed appropriate, by the Chair of the Nomination and Governance Committee.

Under Section A.3 of the current process, Board staff is given only thirty (30) days to conduct an initial background screening of each nominee. This timeline is insufficient and has not proved workable in practice. To provide additional time for screening, the proposed amendment will eliminate this timeline.

The remaining changes to Section A are technical in nature to correct the name of the Nomination and Governance Committee and codify current practice.

Under Section C relating to the reappointment process, the proposed amendments will allow for the Board of Governors, in its discretion, to reappoint a trustee to a third full term if circumstances are such that a third term is deemed appropriate. Further, if a person is appointed initially to serve out the remainder of an unexpired term, and there are less than three (3) years remaining on the unexpired term, the trustee will be eligible for reappointment for two additional full terms.

In the situation where a trustee is appointed to serve out an unexpired term of less than one year, the proposed amendment clarifies that while the trustee is not subject to the notification, application and review process set forth in Section A, action is still required by the Nomination and Governance Committee and the Board of Governors for automatic reappointment of the trustee at the expiration of the term.

The remaining changes to Section C are technical in nature.

Supporting Documentation Included: Information located in Nomination and Governance Committee materials