

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
HEALTH INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
BOCA RATON, FL
NOVEMBER 5, 2014

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and its Committees are accessible at <http://www.flbog.edu>*

1. Call to Order

Chair Ed Morton convened the meeting at 4:15 p.m. on November 5, 2014, with the following members present and answering roll call: Governor Webster, Governor Beard, Governor Carter, and Governor Robinson. A quorum was established.

2. Meeting Minutes

Governor Carter moved that the Committee approve the minutes of the September 17, 2014 meeting, as presented. Governor Webster seconded the motion and members concurred.

3. Health-Related Research: A Survey of the State University System

Governor Morton provided a brief introduction to a presentation by Associate Vice Chancellor R. E. LeMon, noting the important role of research in the SUS.

Dr. LeMon presented highlights from the first report stemming from an environmental scan conducted in 3 broad areas: health-related research, health education, and healthcare delivery. The report on health-related research identifies common threads and themes for the 12 SUS institutions, as nearly all of the universities are engaged in health-related research of some type.

He described the report as a synthesis of university responses to a survey on health-related research. In the survey, the universities were queried as to the magnitude of their research, their top priority areas of research, their general research challenges, their facility challenges and opportunities, their technology transfer challenges and opportunities, their research compliance challenges and opportunities, their veterinary resources challenges and opportunities, their current collaboration with peer SUS institutions, their opportunities for further collaboration in areas where more research needs to be done, and their contributions to translational research.

Dr. LeMon presented on the magnitude of SUS health-related research, noting that \$431 million dollars came into the SUS from the federal Department of Health and Human Services in 2012-2013 and a total of \$600 million from all federal sources was dedicated to health-related research that year. Funding at the University of Florida and the University of South Florida represented nearly 80% of the overall SUS health-related research funding.

Dr. LeMon stated that a national comparison of medical science R&D expenditure data in 2011-2012 showed Florida ranked 6th in the nation. Governor Morton asked how those comparisons would break down on a per capita basis, considering Florida's large population.

Several themes from the report were highlighted, including:

- the need to recruit already-funded faculty and the high cost of adequate startup packages
- a range of facility needs, including a teaching hospital, renovated lab space, and some animal facility needs
- the increasingly competitive nature of grants and the need for strategic partnerships
- resource needs for tech transfer and grants for proof-of-concept studies
- existing collaboration between SUS institutions and a desire to partner more to increase competitiveness for research funding
- overlap among the universities in some high-priority research areas, including aging research
- and a role for the Board in creating shared research infrastructure that could benefit the institutions, such as organizing a streamlined IRB process and data-handling and storage capabilities for greater SUS collaboration.

On this last theme, Provost Joe Glover suggested that current data infrastructure investments such as SSERCA could benefit health researchers, but it would require better communication with the Chief Information Officers of the universities. Dr. LeMon concluded by highlighting the institutions' willingness to collaborate on grants in high-priority areas and to work together in gap areas provided that they have the expertise and resources to do so. He noted the Centers of Excellence model as one mechanism for partnership.

Governor Morton asked the Committee for questions or comments. Governor Carter said tracking the magnitude is important for gauging how the System is performing in health-related research. Governor Robinson noted the importance for translational research, going beyond generating new knowledge and putting knowledge we have to work for people in the community. It is important for students to have skills in translational research. Governor Morton agreed and offered an example of the

importance of applied knowledge in nutrition and disease prevention and management.

11. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Morton thanked members for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Ed Morton, Chair

Amy Beaven,
Director, STEM and Health Initiatives