

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
INNOVATION AND ONLINE COMMITTEE
FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
MARCH 19, 2015

1. Call to Order

Chair Ned Lautenbach convened the meeting at 10:44 a.m. on March 19 2015, with the following members present and answering roll call: Richard Beard; Dean Colson; Tom Kuntz; Wendy Link; Katherine Robinson; Pam Stewart; and Norman Tripp. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of the Committee Minutes

Governor Tripp moved that the committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 22, 2015, as presented. Governor Colson seconded the motion, and the members concurred.

3. Unizin Consortium

University of Florida Provost Joe Glover explained the Unizin consortium was created in order to avoid a situation that now exists in the world of publishing. He said consolidated publishing companies are taking what universities produce, packaging it, and selling it back to university libraries at basically whatever price they want to charge. He stated that this has become a problem nationally and universities cannot continue paying exorbitant prices to publishers for journals. They want to avoid this problem in digital learning, so major research universities created the consortium to secure a foothold in the digital industry.

Dr. Glover stated that the consortium was launched in 2014, with membership being invitation-only. The main objective is to observe greater control and influence in the digital ecosystem. Unizin is a not-for-profit service operation hosted by Internet2 and composed of a CEO, a Board, and staff. Ten major research universities in the nation have joined the consortium as members and others have expressed interest in joining. He said that the Board of Directors has various goals in mind for the consortium, which include acquiring a common learning management system, acquiring or creating a repository for digital learning objects, and acquiring, creating, or developing learning analytics. Universities who are members of Unizin are having conversations about sharing content, courses, and degree programs, although such sharing is not a current objective of the consortium itself.

Dr. Glover indicated that the Unizin Board decided that members can nominate their systems for associate memberships for an annual fee of \$100,000 per system. Associate membership does not qualify for board representation, but would allow associate members to enjoy the benefits of Unizin pricing, products, and services.

Dr. Glover said that the potential benefits to the SUS were: access to the common learning management system at the Unizin price; access to tools under development, including a digital objects repository and learning analytics; membership in a consortium of large public universities that intends to secure its niche in the evolving digital ecosystem; and the potential for cooperative relationships to share digital instruction, objects, courses, and degrees.

Governor Beard asked UCF President John Hitt for his response to the proposal. President Hitt responded that group membership for the system makes sense. He said his university had more enthusiasm for some aspects of the membership than for others.

Chair Lautenbach moved to direct the Chancellor to work with the university leadership in pursuing membership for the SUS in the Unizin consortium. Governor Trip seconded the motion, and the members concurred.

4. Status of Committee Priorities

Dr. Nancy McKee updated the committee on the five priorities it established to be addressed this year.

She explained that the recommendation for a common, opt-in learning management system came from the Task Force for Postsecondary Online Education in Florida, which included members from the State University System, the Florida College System, private institutions, and the Florida Virtual Campus. She stated that it was necessary to competitively bid the selection of the LMS, in order to adhere to procurement requirements in Board regulations and state law. She indicated that an evaluation committee is being established and will include faculty and staff from the SUS and the Florida College System. The plan is to have negotiations completed this fall. The goal is to have a master agreement with tiered pricing, so the more institutions that opt into the agreement, the lower the price will be.

A second priority is to develop a strategic plan for online education. Dr. McKee said that a task force has been created and is being chaired by President Hitt. The task force is composed of five university presidents, one Florida College System president who also chairs that system's Council of Presidents, four provosts, one faculty member, one student, and Dr. Pam Northrup, who is head of the Complete

Florida program. The strategic plan will be brought to the Innovation and Online Committee at its meeting in November 2015.

Dr. McKee said that a third priority of the committee was another recommendation of the Task Force on Postsecondary Online Education in Florida: to enhance data collection efforts. A work group on online metrics has been created and has met twice. The first meeting was to discuss the types of metrics that should be developed to capture what is happening in online education. She said the second meeting was to discuss how to define "online program." The system does not have a definition of online programs, although the statutes define a distance learning course as one in which at least 80% of the course is delivered using some form of technology when the instructor and student are separated by time, space, or both.

Dr. McKee said that off-campus students would expect an online program to be offered completely online. She indicated that a survey will be sent to universities to capture online programs they are offering. The survey will be respectful of the current definition of distance learning courses, but will also capture programs that have all courses 100% online. The survey will be used to create an inventory of online programs.

A fourth priority of the committee was related to online courses and programs. She said that Complete Florida institutions are in the beginning stages of having conversations about developing shared programs, and the task force that is drafting a strategic plan for online education is having conversations about sharing the development and delivery of online courses and programs. She said there also needs to be conversations about the economic model for shared programs to determine how to share revenues and what incentives are needed to encourage institutional participation in the development and offering of shared programs.

A fifth priority of the committee was to enhance faculty development for those faculty who teach online courses, which was also a recommendation of the Task Force on Postsecondary Online Education in Florida. Dr. McKee explained that the task force had recommended that a lead institution be selected to use a train-the-trainer approach so that professional development staff at both state universities and Florida colleges would have the tools they needed to train faculty at their respective universities. Through a competitive procurement process, UCF won the award and the Board included in its legislative budget request a request for \$198,000. The Legislature is currently considering that request.

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Lautenbach adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Ned Lautenbach, Chair

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