

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
September 3, 2015**

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Reappointment of the President for University of West Florida

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Confirm the reappointment of Dr. Judith A. Bense as the president of the University of West Florida.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Section 1001.706, Florida Statutes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Subsection 1001.706(6)(a), Florida Statutes, provides, "The Board of Governors shall confirm the presidential selection and reappointment by a university board of trustees as a means of acknowledging that system cooperation is expected."

On March 25, 2015, the Board of Trustees of the University of West Florida unanimously reappointed Dr. Bense to serve as the president of the University of West Florida. The reappointment extends the term of Dr. Bense's contract through December 31, 2016.

During Dr. Bense's tenure as president of the University of West Florida, the university's academic structure has been reorganized to include University College, focusing on undergraduate retention and progression efforts. The university's Innovation Institute, a unique cross disciplinary focus on creativity, invention and distance learning, now provides the entire state education system with services formerly provided by the Florida Virtual Campus. The university has received high honors for being military and veteran friendly and has instituted transformative efforts to assist the state's adult learners to complete degrees through its Complete Florida program. The university's community outreach efforts under Dr. Bense's leadership led to receipt of the 2015 Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, significant state funding for its Office of Economic Development and Engagement, and a new partnership with the National Park Service for the Gulf Islands Research and Education Center. Dr. Bense also embraced the Board's metrics efforts, leading the university to a 16 point improvement this year. Highlights of Dr. Bense's leadership of the University of West Florida are included in the Board materials.

The University of West Florida Board of Trustees Chair Lewis Bear, Jr., is requesting confirmation of Dr. Bense's reappointment by the Board of Governors.

Supporting Documentation Included:

1. Letter from the University of West Florida Board of Trustees Chair
2. Summary of Key Contract Terms
3. Highlights of Leadership

Facilitators/Presenters:

Mori Hosseini, Chair, Board of Governors
Lewis Bear, Jr., Chair, University of West Florida Board of Trustees