

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
INNOVATION AND ONLINE COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, FL
September 2, 2015

1. Call to Order

Chair Lautenbach convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. on September 2, 2015, with the following members present: Governors Dick Beard, Tom Kuntz, Wendy Link, Ed Morton, Katherine Robinson, Pam Stewart, and Norman Tripp. A quorum was established. Other Board members present were Governors Mori Hosseini, Matthew Carter, Tonnette Graham, and H. Wayne Huizenga. Governor Alan Levine joined the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

2. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

Governor Tripp moved that the committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 19, 2015, as presented. Governor Stewart seconded the motion, and the members concurred.

3. Status of Committee Priorities

Dr. Nancy McKee updated the committee on the five priorities it established at its meeting on June 19, 2014: developing a strategic plan for online education; updating the metrics for online education; addressing issues related to online programs and course offerings; selecting a common, opt-in learning management system; and enhancing faculty development for those faculty who teach online courses. She indicated that:

- The Task Force for Strategic Planning for Online Education continues to meet and is scheduled to workshop its draft strategic plan with the Innovation and Online Committee in November.
- A workgroup of members from the State University System and the Florida College System was formed to update metrics for online education. Several of the revised data elements are being implemented during the fall term. In addition, the workgroup developed a definition of “fully online programs” and “primarily online programs.” Those terms are being used in the creation of an inventory of online programs in the SUS.

- Florida State University has agreed to be the lead institution for the competitive procurement process being used to select a common learning management system. The evaluation stage has been completed and the negotiations phase has begun. The goal is to make a selection in December 2015.
- An inventory of online programs is being assembled for strategic planning purposes.
- Last year, the Board approved a legislative budget request to establish a common, train-the-trainer approach for professional development staff who train faculty who teach online courses in the SUS and the FCS. An effort is underway to obtain funding from another source.

4. UF Online

Mr. Carlos Alfonso introduced the other Advisory Board members: Governor Lautenbach, Dr. John Watret, and Mr. Ernie Friend. He explained the statutory responsibilities of the Advisory Board and indicated that Dr. Andy McCollough would compare UF Online's annual report with the comprehensive business plan approved by the Board of Governors in September 2013.

Dr. McCollough presented UF Online's new initiatives, accolades, and challenges. He mentioned the admissions program, Pathways to Campus Enrollment (PaCE), hiring a new Executive Director, assuming a leadership position for Unizin, and completing the staffing of the UF Online Institute, which is actively engaged in research.

Dr. McCollough said that UF Online has exceeded total enrollment anticipated by the comprehensive business plan; however, out-of-state students had not come to UF Online in numbers anticipated by the plan. More in-state students had enrolled than anticipated, and those students had taken more credit hours than had been expected. He said that UF Online's out-of-state price point is competitive with other online research universities, and persistence rates are similar to those of UF residential students. He said that UF had implemented the critical components of the comprehensive business plan, other than e-textbooks and alternate tuition plans. Dr. Joe Glover assured the committee that there is no difference in what is offered online and what is offered on campus. The accrediting body requires the curriculum and the rigor to be the same.

Dr. Evangeline "Evie" Cummings spoke about UF Online's future. She discussed growing enrollment, marketing expansion, boosting the student experience, innovation and discovery, and continuing operational excellence. Additionally, UF Online aims to boost student experiences and foster an online sense of community.

5. Legislative Budget Requests

Dr. Pam Northrup presented a legislative budget request for \$1.5 million nonrecurring funding for the next-generation Integrated Library System. She said the current system is based on 30-year-old architecture and is severely outdated. Governor Tripp moved to approve the legislative budget request. Governor Kuntz seconded the motion and the members concurred.

Dr. Ron Toll discussed a \$4.8 million budget request for increasing availability of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) e-resources. Funds would be provided for SUS and Florida College System undergraduate STEM e-resources, Florida Polytechnic STEM e-resources, multimedia and video resources, increases in costs for e-resources, and SUS graduate e-journals. Governor Beard moved to approve the legislative budget request. Governor Link seconded the motion and the members concurred.

6. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Governor Lautenbach reminded the members that the Task Force for Strategic Planning for Online Education would be at the November Committee meeting and there would be a strategic, comprehensive discussion on where the system should go in online education. He invited the entire Board to attend that meeting. Governor Lautenbach adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m.