

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

June 23, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Confirmation of Reappointment of the President for New College of Florida

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Confirm the reappointment of Dr. Donal O'Shea as the president of New College of 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 June 11, 2016, the Board of Trustees of New College of Florida approved an amendment to Dr. O'Shea's employment contract, unanimously reappointing Dr. O'Shea to serve as the president of New College of Florida. The reappointment extends the term of Dr. O'Shea's contract through June 30, 2018. Chair Keith Monda is requesting confirmation of Dr. O'Shea's reappointment by the Board of Governors.

Under Dr. O'Shea's leadership since July 1, 2012, a trustee-approved four-year plan for the College was created and implemented to make some carefully selected investments to advance the education that New College offers and to secure the College's future.

New College continues as one of the top-ranked public liberal arts and sciences colleges in the nation. New College is currently ranked Number 4 among all national public liberal arts colleges in the *US News & World Report* rankings, trailing only the national military academics. Various other well respected publications including the *Princeton Review*, *Forbes*, *Kiplinger's* and *Fiske Guide to Colleges* rank New College a "best value." The College is able to achieve these accolades because of its exceptional academic quality and because of its commitment to keeping net tuition costs for its students as low as possible.

New College has long excelled in the natural sciences and mathematics and currently has one of the highest percentage in the SUS of bachelor's degrees awarded in STEM fields (37% of its 2016 graduates). President O'Shea was successful in gaining approval and funding for the College's first Master's degree program in Data Science. This program is benefitting the undergraduate program as well. The College is looking forward beginning construction soon on a 22,000 gross square foot addition of the Heiser Natural Science Complex, expanding laboratory, teaching, and research space that will support further growth of STEM degrees.

President O'Shea was successful in obtaining significant enhancement funding in support of the College's career, internship and fellowship programs. Enhancements in these programs are producing a good return-on-investment in preparing students for work and furthering their education following graduation and will aid the College in improving several performance metrics.

The College's major gifts program has been revitalized, is fully staffed now and very active. Other administrative and student support services have been restructured. President O'Shea has reached out to nearby higher education institutions, local foundations and the business community to collaborate on ways to broaden opportunities for students and increase administrative efficiencies that have yielded early successes, with more promising collaborations in planning.

President O'Shea leads an outstanding faculty by example, as evidenced by his continued contributions to his academic discipline. He is the 2016 recipient of one of the highest distinctions in mathematics, the Steele Prize for Mathematical Exposition by the American Mathematical Society.

Additional highlights of Dr. O'Shea's leadership are included in the Board materials.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** 1. Letter from the New College of Florida Board of Trustees Chair  
2. Leadership Highlights/ Summary of Key Contract Terms

**Facilitators/Presenters:** Chair Tom Kuntz  
Chair Keith Monda