

MINUTES  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
INNOVATION AND ONLINE COMMITTEE  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
GAINESVILLE, FL  
August 30, 2017

1. Call to Order

Chair Ned Lautenbach convened the meeting at 5:06 p.m. on August 30, 2017, with the following members present: Governors Ed Morton, Dick Beard (by phone), Sydney Kitson, Wendy Link, Pam Stewart, Norman Tripp, and Gary Tyson. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

Governor Tripp moved that the committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 29, 2017, as presented. Governor Link seconded the motion, and the members concurred.

3. Legislative Budget Request: Innovative and Online Education Initiatives

University of Florida Provost Joe Glover, chair of the Steering Committee guiding the implementation of the SUS 2025 Strategic Plan for Online Education, introduced Amin Qazi, the CEO of Unizin, a consortium formed by a large number of research universities, which the State University System of Florida elected to join. He said that Mr. Qazi gave a two-hour presentation that morning; during the first hour, he explained the Unizin tools available to facilitate online education and student success, both in the distance education modality and residential setting, and in the second hour, he talked about the work Unizin is doing with learning analytics.

Dr. Glover then presented the Legislative Budget Request for consideration by the committee. He said that workgroup chairs gave updates and recommendations on several initiatives to the Innovation and Online Committee in March to ensure they were in sync with committee expectations. Upon approval by the committee, the workgroups determined the resources needed to fully implement their recommendations. The Steering Committee reviewed and, in some cases, amended their suggested resources, which resulted in the Legislative Budget Request before the committee.

Dr. Glover indicated that provosts felt that implementation of tactics in the Strategic Plan for Online Education would progress faster if their respective institutions took the lead in efforts surrounding these initiatives; the lead institutions would engage the other institutions in the system. He said that the following institutions previously had been given the lead on the several issues:

- UCF - professional development for faculty and staff engaged in online education
- UF - Research Consortium for Online Education
- UWF - Florida Virtual Campus and Complete Florida

He said the following four initiatives were included in the proposed legislative budget request:

1. eTexts and Open Educational Resources. The result of this component of the LBR will be to enable faculty to use a catalog tool to find materials they need as they develop their courses. These materials may be from various repositories or they may be eTexts for which lower pricing has been negotiated. He said the system would have a process in place to ensure that these materials are high quality materials. Appropriate training will be incorporated into professional development programs so faculty will know how to search for and find these materials and incentive funds will be provided to encourage faculty to use the resources. He said that students would participate on an opt-in basis, and that students who select the lower-cost materials would have their billing information sent to the institution's bursar to be charged to their respective accounts, allowing them to have access to content on the first day of classes. He stated that the University of South Florida would lead this effort.

Governor Morton asked if an analysis had been done to determine how much money this initiative would save for students and the financial impact it would have. Dr. Glover stated that Indiana University, which is similar in size to the University of Florida, saved its students roughly \$6 million in 2016. Indiana University started this effort about ten years ago and over the course of time they increased faculty participation. He said that it is not to say that our institutions could expect that level of savings in the first year, but that a solid program and sustained efforts promoting adoption would result in savings for students of millions of dollars per year. Dr. Jennifer Smith said that our system has some pilot programs that have already resulted in cost savings for students. The University of Florida negotiated lower rates with publishers for fall 2016, which allowed students to save 43% off publisher list prices. UF saved \$940,985 for students, and this was just for one semester for 79 freshman-level courses. With regard to open educational resources, FSU has an alternative textbook grant

program, which is expected to save students over \$41,000 in textbook costs by summer 2018.

Governor Morton asked if all universities will participate. Ms. Smith said that the program would be available to all universities and she felt they would all want to participate. Dr. Glover said that there will probably be early adopters and the program will grow with the encouragement of presidents, provosts, deans, and department chairs. Governor Morton said the cost of textbooks is a burden to students.

Dr. Tyson asked how incentive funds for faculty would be distributed and Dr. Glover responded that the incentive program would vary by university.

2. Repository of Master Courses. In order to reduce or contain course development and refresh costs throughout the System, a repository of courses and ancillary course materials would be established for use by faculty who are creating or enhancing their courses; such use would be on an opt-in basis. Dr. Glover stated that the initial set of courses would be system-wide general education core courses, and that all courses would be vetted prior to inclusion in the repository to ensure they meet the quality standards agreed upon by SUS institutions. A system-wide faculty committee would provide necessary oversight of the repository; funding for refresh costs will give faculty an incentive for contributing their respective courses to the repository. He said that the University of Florida would lead this effort on behalf of the State University System.

Governor Tyson asked about the selection of the members who would serve on the faculty committee, stating that it sounds close to curriculum review, which would be the purview of the faculty senates. Dr. Andy McCollough responded that the selection of the committee could be run through the faculty senate.

3. Proctoring Network and Streamlining and Sharing of Software and Services. Dr. Glover said that universities are currently independently developing content and resources to support proctoring and academic integrity initiatives, and that a proctoring website will reduce the current duplication of effort and facilitate the advancement of proctoring. He said that universities also want to develop a statewide licensing website to reduce a duplication of effort and reduce spending in technology procurement. The development of a statewide licensing website would assist in the exploration, evaluation, and procurement of technology. Florida International University will be the lead university for both proctoring and a statewide licensing website.

4. Innovative Programs. Dr. Glover stated that the SUS is committed to expanding access to – and reducing costs for – quality education, which requires pushing the boundaries of current academic technology and practice. He said that a system-wide coordinating committee will select proposed projects for funding, with special consideration being given to innovative proposals that address significant needs and have the ability to scale up to system level. Dr. Glover stated that awardees and other institutional representatives will be expected to attend an annual Florida Higher Education Innovation Summit hosted by a state institution. The goal of the summit is to disseminate information about each project to help foster the scaling of high-impact innovations across both college and university systems. He said the University of Central Florida will be the lead institution for this effort.

Dr. Glover indicated that the total of these four components is a little over \$2,113,000, of which \$298,000 is nonrecurring. A breakdown of the cost per component is included in the agenda item.

Governor Tripp moved to recommend to the Budget and Finance Committee the inclusion of \$2,113,160 for “Innovative and Online Education Initiatives” in the Board’s 2018-19 Legislative Budget Request. Governor Kitson seconded the motion and the members concurred.

#### 5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Governor Lautenbach commended institutions for working together on these issues and for stepping up to take the lead on behalf of the system.

He asked Dr. Glover if he would like to make any other remarks about Unizin. Dr. Glover stated that there are a substantial number of products now available through Unizin and the challenge now is for the State University System to engage with them. He said that Unizin has been proactive in producing new software and licensing some other pieces of software that universities could not wait for them to produce. There are forward-looking tools that will help students succeed, that will help institutions to monitor student behavior and progress in their courses and to intervene when they see students stumbling. He said that due to Amin Qazi’s presentation that morning, institutions are better informed about what is available and can make individual decisions about how to best integrate those products into their educational programs.

Governor Tyson asked how to ensure we maintain privacy for student data. Dr. Glover said that Amin Qazi shared this morning that Unizin is concerned about FERPA issues, too, and has developed a set of software that will take a record and anonymize it. Unizin is currently vetting that software with Ohio State University through its General Counsel’s Office to ensure Unizin’s algorithms work correctly. He said that if the Board

of Governors would like to develop a process by which they would like to be satisfied that security is being adequately dealt with, he was sure Unizin would be receptive to entering into that process and provide that assurance.

Governor Lautenbach adjourned the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

---

Ned Lautenbach, Chair

---

Nancy C. McKee  
Associate Vice Chancellor