

INDEX OF MINUTES  
 STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
 BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
 CONFERENCE CALL  
 TALLAHASSEE, FL  
 MAY 11, 2021

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 and its Committees are accessible at <http://www.flbog.edu/>.*

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Call to Order .....	2
2. Chair’s Report to the Board of Governors .....	2
3. Chancellor’s Report .....	3
4. Public Comment .....	4
5. Presidential Search Update .....	4
A. Florida State University	
B. New College of Florida	
6. Consent Agenda Items .....	5
A. Minutes, March 23, 2021	
B. Facilities Committee Report	
i. University of Florida \$250M Debt Authorization for Gator Residential Complex	
C. Academic and Student Affairs Committee Report	
i. Public Notice to Approve Amendment to Board of Governors Regulations	
1. 6.013, Military Veterans and Active Duty	
2. 8.004, Academic Program Coordination	
ii. Public Notice of Intent to Adopt Board of Governors Regulation 6.022 Intercollegiate Athletes	
iii. Ph.D. in Plant Breeding University of Florida, CIP 01.1104	
iv. Termination Request for Master of Science in Data Science New College of Florida, CIP 30.3001	
v. Termination Request for the Ph.D. in Health Services Research, CIP 51.0701, by University of Florida	
D. Nomination and Governance Committee Report	
i. Consider Reappointment of University Trustees	
7. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment .....	5

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1. Call to Order

On May 11, 2021, Chair Sydney Kitson convened the meeting at 3:20 p.m. with the following members present and answering roll call: Vice Chair Brian Lamb; Tim Cerio; Patricia Frost; Ed Haddock; H. Wayne Huizenga, Jr.; Ken Jones; Charles Lydecker; Ally Schneider; Steven Scott, William Self; Eric Silagy and Kent Stermon.

2. Chair's Report to the Board of Governors

Chair Kitson thanked members of the Board and universities for participating in the meeting. Although the 2020-21 academic year is coming to a close, the State University System continues to perform extremely well despite the global pandemic. During this challenging year, the faculty continued to teach, staff continued to guide and support, and students continued to advance in their academic pursuits. Most importantly, thousands of students completed degrees and entered Florida's workforce. On behalf of the Board, Chair Kitson expressed his appreciation to the university leadership, the faculty, and particularly to the students, for meeting the challenges of the 2020-21 academic year under very difficult circumstances.

Chair Kitson stated the COVID-19 virus changed our lives in ways we never could have imagined. But the State University System stepped forward with a commitment to the health and safety of our campuses and to delivering high quality academic programs and services without compromise. He recognized and thanked the presidents and board chairs who joined together last year to battle the pandemic and who have continued to meet regularly to share information and collaborate on solutions. Surgeon General Scott Rivkees' participation and advice has been invaluable to them as they moved forward. He strongly believes this collaboration brought university leaders closer together and resulted in a more cohesive State University System.

To this day, the universities continue to respond and contribute to the State's battle against the COVID-19 virus with knowledge, expertise, and compassion. Currently, the universities are working with the Department of Health on vaccination education and information campaigns, and providing campus vaccination sites for community members.

Turning to the 2021 legislative session, he applauded the state's leaders who recognized the impact of the State University System and provided resources to enable universities to continue generating innovative research and producing the highly qualified graduates demanded by Florida's workforce. The appropriations bill

provides \$5.3 billion for the State University System; nearly a three percent increase over the prior year's recurring base budget. Additionally, performance-based funding, which is the System's bedrock, was once again funded at \$560 million, as were the Fixed Capital Outlay program and the Capital Improvement Trust Fund, both of which are critical to meeting university infrastructure needs. Chair Kitson was gratified the legislature set aside \$350 million for state agency, college, and university deferred maintenance needs, which continues to be one of the Board's highest priorities. The legislature also passed comprehensive legislation that prioritizes policies and programs to provide postsecondary students with resources supporting educational options and future employment opportunities. He thanked the legislature for their leadership and support.

Looking ahead, he noted Florida's economy has begun to rebound. He also expects the universities to provide a more traditional educational experience for students in the fall semester, including a broad array of academic offerings, student support services, extracurricular and social activities, and athletic participation. Presidents and provosts are planning to schedule a full slate of "face-to-face" classes for next fall. This involves considerable planning with faculty and deans and is being balanced by the continuing student demand for high-quality online classes.

Chair Kitson expressed excitement about the upcoming meeting in June at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg. He is anticipating having strong in-person representation and participation by our members, university partners, and guests.

Chair Kitson explained this was Governor Ally Schneider's last meeting as the Board's student representative. While the Board will formally recognize Governor Schneider at the June meeting, he expressed the Board's appreciation to Governor Schneider for her service during the challenging times of the 2020-21 academic year. As Chair of the Florida Student Association (FSA), Governor Schneider met remotely with student leaders during the pandemic and stepped forward in the early days of the pandemic to advocate for the health and safety concerns of students. She also engaged the FSA with the work of the Board's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion workgroup and led a virtual "Rally in Tally" during the legislative session, advocating for Bright Futures, sexual assault initiatives, and food and housing insecurities. He thanked Governor Schneider for her dedicated service to the Board of Governors.

### 3. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Criser thanked board members for their insights, support and perspectives during the legislative session, which were invaluable. He noted that a second virtual state-wide job fair will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> and is yet another example of an activity the university system learned how to improve upon during the past year. Previously, the state-wide job fair was an in-person event hosted in

Central Florida, but due to it now being hosted virtually, over 129 employers across the State have enrolled to participate in the event. Students from all across the state will also be participating in the event.

Chancellor Criser reiterated the importance of universities offering career services to Florida's employers. All 12 university career resource centers recently combined efforts to fill over 300 job opportunities across the state through the use of targeted emails to students and alumni and social media posts. Chancellor Criser said whether you are an employer in the private side, or whether a state agency looking to fill a gap, the career resource centers are taking a very proactive approach to connecting students and alumni with potential employers.

4. Public Comment

No requests for public comment were received.

5. Presidential Search Update

A. Florida State University

Chair Kitson called on Mr. Eric Silagy to provide an update on the presidential search for Florida State University. Mr. Silagy said the presidential search committee met the morning of May 11<sup>th</sup> via Zoom to review the slate of candidates who had applied by the deadline. They were presented with a strong list of 22 candidates, both traditional and non-traditional. The candidates ranged from former presidents of major research institutions, to provosts or vice-provosts, and individuals from Florida who have heavy experience in the private sector. Mr. Silagy said the committee went through all of the individuals with the idea of narrowing it down to a list of candidates to be interviewed at the end of this week. At the end of that process, there were nine candidates selected to go on to the next round. The next meeting has not been scheduled yet, but the list will continue to be narrowed until they end up with a very short list of potential candidates.

B. New College of Florida

Chair Kitson congratulated Chair Ruiz of the New College of Florida Board of Trustees on the selection of their next president. Chair Kitson stated that Dr. Patricia Okker will be presented to the Board for confirmation at the June meeting.

Mr. Levine described the New College presidential search as being very smooth with a lot of engagement by faculty and student leaders. He also noted that the New College of Florida Board and search committee were very engaged. He believes they landed on a very good candidate and he is looking forward to presenting her in June.

Chair Kitson thanked Mr. Silagy and Mr. Levine for their time and effort on these important processes.

6. Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Huizenga moved approval of the slate of items on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Cerio seconded the motion, and the members concurred unanimously.

7. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Kitson announced the next meeting of the Board will be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg. The plan is for the meeting to be conducted in-person and for members who are unable to attend in-person to use a virtual platform, with more information to follow. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. on May 11, 2021.

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Sydney Kitson, Chair

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Vikki Shirley,  
Corporate Secretary