State University System
Education and General
Performance Funds from FY 2020-2021
Preeminence Reporting Template
Quarter 3 Update
(July 1-March 31, 2021)

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University:	**University of Florida**
Amount Allocated:	**$15 million**
Amount Held Back:	

In describing the use of the 2020-2021 FY Pillars of Excellence funds allocated to your university, this form consists of the following two parts:

I. *Using the table below, please list the specific initiative(s), the current amount spent on each initiative, and current progress on each initiative. Please be as specific as possible when reporting progress on initiatives (e.g., number of students receiving scholarships or stipends, number of courses redesigned, etc.). Where possible, provide a detailed narrative on current progress compared to goals.*

II. *Please provide a detailed description of each university initiative listed in Table 1 – including the anticipated return on investment, improvement on university rankings metrics, and plans for the second quarter.*

Table 1

University Initiative		**Spending** as of March 31, 2021	**Progress on Initiative** as of September 30, 2020
Faculty Compensation	**$13,138,205**	**$9,853,654**	**faculty raises for FY21**
Moonshot program, Health Affairs	**$2,000,000**	**$1,023,534**	**Research support for year 3 of 3**
Moonshot program, Florida Museum of Natural History	**$300,000**	**$208,197**	**Research support for year 3 of 4**
total	**$15,438,205**	**$11,085,385**	

Faculty Compensation:

Compensation to retain the outstanding faculty we have recruited. Faculty compensation is an element that US News & World Report (USNWR) considers in its rankings of universities. According to those metrics, UF's average salary is 12% lower than the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill's, the next lowest among our peers in the top 10 public universities. To provide competitive funding for our world-class funding, we have dedicated 85% of the total allocation from the state ($13.1M of $15M) for faculty raises.

a. **Progress on Initiative:** during the third quarter FY21, the university spent $3,209,044 (24.4% of $13.1M) on raises.

b. Return on Investment: faculty development and retention are far more cost effective than replacement. It takes longer to recruit and establish top credentials for new faculty. We don't want to lose our top faculty to highly competitive peer institutions.

c. Impact on University Rankings Metrics: retaining top faculty at the University of Florida will impact several elements in the rankings – academic reputation and research funding. Research grants are a significant component of educational expenditures. Together reputation and educational expenditures are 30% of the undergraduate rankings. These two elements are also key drivers of other graduate and international rankings, helping to establish the University of Florida as a premier destination for the nation's top faculty, undergraduate and graduate/professional students.

d. **Plan for Fourth Quarter:** the remaining funds ($3,284,551) will support these increases to base salary during Q4.

Moonshot Programs – Health Affairs

The University of Florida is committing more than $17 million to ambitious new initiatives aimed at solving some of society's most urgent problems while redefining the role of a land-grant university for the 21st century. These include three programs in the health sciences to put Americans on track to living longer and healthier lives.

Creating the Healthiest Generation
UF is focusing some of its medical research on two facets of general health in order to reverse the downward trend of life expectancy for Americans. First, UF seeks to eliminate healthcare disparities – the gaps or differences in access to doctors and medical treatments between various populations. UF also seeks to improve the treatment of numerous brain, neuromuscular and mental health conditions, from brain tumors and Parkinson's disease to addiction and autism.

Engineering Cancer Cures
One of the single biggest challenges to brain cancer research has been the lack of human tumors to study and test. But now, a UF team of engineers and doctors has developed two game changers: a way to 3-D print soft human tissues, including cancerous tumors, and a new type of research lab that will help scientists accelerate investigations into potential cancer cures.

a. **Progress on Initiatives**: during the third quarter FY21, the university spent $225,694 (11.3% of $2M) on these initiatives. Total funding of $2M was allocated to support year 3 of 3 for these projects.

b. **Return on Investment**: this investment is part of an effort to stimulate and expand our research portfolio, in ways that distinctly benefit the state of Florida and the nation.

c. **Impact on University Rankings Metrics**: strengthening our research programs are essential to improving our academic reputation among peer institutions, demonstrating that the University of Florida attracts top faculty and graduate students.

d. **Plan for Fourth Quarter**: the remaining funds ($976,466) will support these projects in Q4.

Moonshot Program – Florida Museum of Natural History

Scientists in Schools

As new information about our changing environment becomes available, UF wants to speed its delivery to a specific audience: the 2.6 million K-12 students in Florida who are among the future stewards of our planet. In person or through virtual connections, UF scientists will present updates on topics such as sea-level rise, red tides and tropical storms.

The University of Florida (UF) Thompson Earth Systems Institute (TESI) Moonshot kickoff took place on January 19th, 2019. The primary goal of the retreat was to connect scientific professionals with educators to discuss how TESI can best serve teachers and their students. Four participants from each of five school districts (Seminole, Escambia, Alachua, Lee and Palm Beach) were invited to participate in the pilot Moonshot project. District leaders were encouraged to attend as one of the participants. There are five main themes TESI hopes to address through the Moonshot project (Climate Responsibility, Natural Hazards, Healthy Waterways, Habitats and Biodiversity, and Earth Systems and the Economy).

e. **Progress on Initiative:** during the third quarter FY21, the university spent $64,006 (21.3% of $300K) on this initiative. Total funding of $300K was allocated to support year 3 of 4 for this project.

f. **Return on Investment:** this investment is part of an effort to stimulate and expand our research portfolio, in ways that distinctly benefit the state of Florida and the nation. This project will improve science education, increase collaboration between teachers and scientists, and help to train the next generation of citizens and scientists that will protect the Florida environment.

g. **Impact on University Rankings Metrics**: strengthening our research programs are essential to improving our academic reputation among peer institutions, demonstrating that the University of Florida attracts top faculty and graduate students.

h. **Plan for Fourth Quarter:** the remaining funds ($91,803) will support this project in Q4.