

## **ACFS Minutes May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (ZOOM video conference)**

### **Attendees:**

Bill Self, UCF; Keith Koons, UCF; Joseph Harrington, UCF; Shawn Felton, FGCU; Anna Carlin, FGCU; Jamie MacDonald, FGCU; Joerg Reinhold, FIU; Martha Pelaez, FIU; Erin Ryan, FSU; Eric Chicken, FSU; Ray Thomas, UF; Sylvain Dore, UF; Kevin Wagner, FAU; Gordon Rakita, UNF; Gary Tyson, FSU; Ann Marie Cavazos, FAMU; Chris Beetle, FAU; Kevin Wagner, FAU;; Victoria Astley, Florida Poly; Sarah Hernandez, NCF; David Harvey, NCF; Deanna Michael, USF; Fawn Ngo, USF; Matt Crow, UWF; Sherry Schneider, UWF

### **Invited Guests and guest attendees:**

Janet Owen, Vice President of External Relations, UCF

Marshall Criser, Chancellor, SUS

Tim Jones, Vice Chancellor- Finance/Administration & CFO, SUS

Christy England, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, SUS

Nancy McKee, Associate Vice Chancellor, Innovation and Online Education, SUS

Deb Miller, Assistant Vice-President for Digital Learning and Innovation, UNF

Kelvin Thompson, Executive Director for Online and Continuing Education, UCF

Jennifer Smith, Director of the Office of Faculty Development & Teaching Excellence, UF

Julie Golden Botti, Executive Director for Online and Continuing Education, FAU

Introductions around the table (virtually through ZOOM)

**Note:** no sign in possible – so members will need to review minutes to accurately reflect the attendance

(Chancellor Criser moved to 2PM; conflict with another meeting)

### **Discussion with Tim Jones, Vice Chancellor – Finance/Administration and CFO, SUS**

Governor DeSantis has not yet received the 2020-2021 budget; likely to use veto power to plan for cuts following COVID pandemic

Several items could be targeted by veto including performance based funding; Universities of Distinction and many University specific items in the budget

Revenue estimates were approximately \$800M down; could be \$1.5-2.0 billion down in next estimates due in late May

CARES act brief description

Question: What about reserves? Are tapping reserves (7%) part of the conversation?

Answer: Yes this is being discussed alongside carry forward flexibility

**Legislative Update – Janet Owen, Vice President of External Relations, UCF** (invited guest)

Janet shared a short ppt presentation that included overall state funding over the past few years to higher education as well as overall budget

Discussed an estimated shortfall of \$8-10 Billion dollars (conservative to worst case scenario) that would put us back in 2017-2018 funding range (not as bad as last recession numbers)

The mechanism of budget cuts (legislative) will depend on whether a special session is called (current leadership or future leadership)

Short discussion of the budget impacts of pre-eminence funding and budget cuts

Update on the impacts of Senate Bill 72 from last session including:

Universities of Distinction

New metrics in PBF

- 4-year graduation rate FTIC

- 2-year graduation rate (AA transfers)

- 6-year graduate rate addition to calculation

Five-year trend reports by BOG on Faculty/Administration ratio

New Conflict of Interest in research language; topic likely to re-emerge in next legislative session as well

SB 646 and SB 226 also add new legislation on Student Athletes and Athletic Trainers with implications for Athletics programs in SUS

Short discussion of Phase 1 and Phase 2 COVID orders (Governor)

Question – What are the implications of lawsuits from students over fees and shift to remote instruction from Spring 2020 (UF example lawsuit) – brief discussion of implications

Discussion of the importance of flexibility in the use of carry forward for both non-recurring and emergency funding in the SUS to offset potential budget shortfalls in next year's budget

Concerns raise from ACFS members about the merger proposals from last year (Florida Poly and NCF)

Questions about any real budget savings gained by mergers (considerable doubt raised on actual savings)

Question – is the BOG or someone looking at Summer and Fall enrollments with an eye toward budget concerns?

Answer – yes - likely in enrollment management groups

Several ACFS members concerned over any premature announcement of fall opening of campuses without a blueprint or guiding principles

Concerns raised about the adequacy of testing at all campuses for faculty and students

Risks – for faculty especially – in terms of face to face teaching in the Fall

Question – what kind of participation are faculty having in reopening discussions with administration? Noted that UCF is having a special faculty senate meeting on Monday May 18<sup>th</sup> with several groups on campus being invited to attend and present on what task forces/committees are doing to plan for reopening

Several other members mentioned they were concerned over the lack of faculty voice in the making of plans for Fall and overall COVID 19 pandemic response

One member mentioned an idea – to require the BOG to report out on COVID 19 metrics regularly to all the SUS members such as:

- Infection rates at each institution
- Student infection rates
- Any aggregate health data on COVID at each University

Janet Owen suggested to raise these issues with the Chancellor or Vice Chancellors in discussion at the meeting today

Concern raised: How will COVID pandemic impact our performance based metrics? How will these metrics be adjusted during the pandemic if at all?

Another concern: how will student's ability to succeed in courses (wifi issues; different levels of access via distance learning) be addressed across the system?

(end of Janet Owen's discussion)

**Minutes approval (late):** no amendments, approved as sent to members with one abstention (did not get a chance to review or get email)

**Election of officers:**

Led by Chair Felton (not eligible for re-election)

- 1) Nominations opened for Chair position – Bill Self nominated by several members (Reinhold, Rakita, others)

Bill Self (UCF) elected as Chairman (poll vote by ZOOM clear majority)

Self describes some initiatives he hopes to accomplish:

- Continued active meetings (monthly, still 3 face to face, but more ZOOM)
- Coincide one face to face meeting in Tallahassee during legislative session, and meeting with key legislators (ACFS meeting – 2 days including legislative meetings)
- Encourage a baseline level of shared governance is occurring at each institution through written documentation (constitutions, bylaws)
- Develop a BOG led initiative on faculty retention – through SUS wide faculty climate survey similar to COACHE survey

2) Nominations opened for Vice Chair position

Joerg Reinhold nominated (Ray Thomas nominated)

Ann Marie Cavazos nominated (self-nominated)

Deanna Michael nominated (Victoria Astley nominated)

Each nominee asked to speak briefly on their desire to serve and willingness to serve (all agreed to serve and spoke)

Nominees asked to leave ZOOM while short discussion ensued on strengths of each candidate (brief)

Nominees brought back into ZOOM and election conducted by email votes to Chair (Felton) and Chair-elect (Self) to verify voting member status of each institutions (two votes per institution as per constitution)

(break) – during break votes tallied by email

Felton announces Deanna Michael obtains majority of votes as Vice Chair, close race noted

**Future meeting dates:**

Due to concerns over face to face issues – next regular meeting moved to **October 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2020 at UCF (face to face)**

Based on Chair elects desire to meet with legislators and overlap with BOG – **March meeting will be March 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 2021 in Tallahassee.** BOG is scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> and this overlaps with active legislative session.

One year out – **May 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2021 in Tallahassee.**

**ACFS Bylaw revisions:**

Self led a small group to revise Constitution and Bylaws; document shared with ACFS members with agenda and materials

- Addition of “Governor” to the list of constituents that we advise
- Removal of section 3.3 due to the fact that each SUS will have its own governance structure that dictates its membership to ACFS (struck from bylaws)

Brief discussion then a motion to approve (and second); unanimously approved as revised bylaws

Past ACFS member raises the issue of adding a mechanism to remove officers without an election; another member suggests this should be considered; brief discussion and recommendation made to look at adding this in subsequent revision of bylaws in the coming year

### **Discussion with Christy England, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, SUS**

Dr. England expresses her gratitude to all faculty across the SUS for their hard work in COVID pandemic and all of the challenges

CAVP is meeting weekly (provosts group) and discussing the following key issues recently:

- CARES act funding
- Reporting for CARES act afterwards
- Audit reminders on use of funds
- ACT/College board testing issues and challenges
- BOG regulations related to admissions and testing

Other issues that are ongoing related to COVID:

Housing (VP student affairs group)

Fall instruction

Orientations (remote in summer)

Federal grants on COVID (VPRs)

BOT and BOG meetings virtual to respond to COVID

Still have academic programs to review/approve (normal work)

Question raised: specialized accreditation (e.g. MD, nursing) – Is the BOG or SUS trying to use a coordinated effort to talk with accreditors to facilitate student’s graduation despite remote instruction?

Answer – So far the Dean’s of each institution have been leading on this – can ask the question to the Provosts group to see if they need help at at the system level

SACS-COC did send a letter to reduce concerns over remote learning for Spring

Continued conversation on the challenges for some programs to complete clinical rotations; education students completing internships; mental health programs and their clinicals; issues about national testing not happening for some programs

Question/issue raised about the national conversation about the perceived value of online/distance learning versus face to face (class action lawsuit at UF)

- Students are asking whether it is worth the price to do distance learning given that many of the co-curricular activities are not going to be part of their education experience

Answer: Council of Student Affairs (CSA) is discussing how these kinds of activities (co and extra-curricular) can be accomplished in Fall, still an open question

Another member raises concerns over opening campus in the Fall

- Concern that this is not seen as a life and death issue
- Discussion of models that predict higher deaths if we go back face to face (concern by this member)
- Discussion of whether politics will impact decision to return to campus

Dr. England discusses that several groups are working on the questions of reopening, including data driven emergency management group (health and safety); Chancellor likely to discuss later today

### **Discussion with Nancy McKee, Associate Vice Chancellor, Innovation and Online Education, SUS**

Joined by Deb Miller, Kelvin Thompson, Jennifer Smith and Julie Golden Botti, all from Quality Work group (in ZOOM as guests)

Overview of awards program

- 1) President's award – 1 per SUS institution  
(criteria and selection done at each institution)
- 2) State level award (2 types)
  - a. Distinguished Online Teaching Award (3 awards)
  - b. Chancellor's award (1 award)

Criteria:

- Consistent with existing teaching awards
- Courses must be designated as high quality (current implementation)
- Include evidence and artifacts; copy of course; excerpts of course; narrative from the instructor

Two committees:

- 1) Coordinating committee (logistics)
- 2) Selection committee

Past Chair Tyson mentions that when the BOG approved this the decision including explicit language that the faculty who would serve on these committees would be nominated by the faculty senates and not the Provosts

Other members also mention that this body (ACFS) should play a major role in these award committees both at each institution and at the state level

Question raised to the quality of online education versus Face to Face: are any published studies addressing the issue of quality?

Answer: a number of studies of quality have been published on both sides of that question

Several of the guests chimed in on this topic; general discussion of online/remote learning

### **Discussion with Marshall Criser, Chancellor, State University System**

Chancellor discusses the pathway for reopening campuses:

- Have a plan for reopening (ongoing)
- Stakeholders all engaged in that planning
- Continue to use technology as a key resource
- Safety a focus; campus environment for faculty and students

Summer – still doing SUS business:

However likely a year to consider PBF and metrics with unique lens (different from COVID)

Discussion with members about Fall and how it might look quite different than usual Fall semester

Question: flexibility with carry forward funds?

Answer: CFO groups are having general discussions about carry forward and reserves

How does a student benefit from a decision to use reserves or carry forward? – a good measure of whether it would be a good idea

Discussion of concerns over bond ratings (if we use reserves)

Variability in each campus plan discussed – each campus is unique, but overall the plan should have guard rails and best practices; where can the SUS be leveraged to enable campuses?

Question: How best to arrange classrooms for social distancing? Dorms?

General discussion that this should be a local decision and not handed down

Question: layoffs or furloughs possible?

Pretty extensive discussion on furlough regulation at UCF (lack thereof); layoffs vs furloughs; CARES act intent

Concerns raised for senior faculty (over 60 years old) and others with pre-existing conditions that are vulnerable to COVID 19

Remote learning – likely for Fall more extensive – and reminder that it has been done successfully for many years (reference to lecture capture as early as 70's)

Discussion about shared governance – that is how many Provosts are actively seeking out their faculty input on COVID issues and task forces (Criser asked to remind leaders to engage in strong shared governance)

Chancellor Criser mentions that he would be glad to come to more ACFS meetings upcoming in the Summer to further discuss these and other issues; Vice Chancellor England also agrees to more meetings to discuss in summer

Brief discussion over concerns that reopening might have political implications; safety has been emphasized by Chair Kitson from the beginning of the pandemic and throughout

Questions about the availability of testing on all campuses (some have more capabilities than others)

Testing sites should be part of the reopening toolkit that the SUS plans for in the coming weeks (suggestions)

One ACFS member suggests that some schools pilot reopening in summer B (to test for Fall) Chancellor describes that pilot will be happening for other groups anyway (admin, researchers)

Short discussion of the academic calendar that might be altered (Wake Forest example for discussion)

(end of Chancellor Criser's visit)

Brief wrap-up of meeting (over time) by Chair Felton and Vice Chair Self (no new comments or discussion)

Adjourned approximately 4 PM