

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE
FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY
March 23, 2021

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

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Governor Darlene Jordan convened the meeting on March 23, 2021, at 9:26 a.m. with the following members present: Governors Edge, Jones, Lydecker, and Stermon. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of the January 27, 2021, Committee Meeting

Governor Jordan asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2021, committee meeting. Governor Lydecker moved to approve, Governor Jones seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Research and Innovation Dashboard Update

Governor Jordan provided background on the Research and Innovation Dashboard project. She then recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development, to provide the 2021 Research and Innovation Dashboard update.

Ms. Sikes highlighted initiatives focused on elevating the System's research profile. These were: 1) the establishment of the Academic and Research Excellence Committee; 2) the support from the Board, and System partners in the Legislature and the Governor's office for the World Class Faculty and Scholar program that allows the State University System (SUS) institutions to recruit and retain exemplary faculty and research scholars and to elevate the national competitiveness of Florida's universities; 3) the Vice Presidents for Research continue to meet on a regular basis; 4) hosting the annual research and development (R&D) workshop in Washington, DC (on hold due to COVID-19); and 5) building the R&D dashboard, approved by the Board in 2016, to chart the system's progress in research.

The dashboard is organized into four categories: Research Contracts and Grants; Innovation; People, and Return on Investment. Additionally, the dashboard provides information on 19 metrics across the four categories.

Five metrics are included under the Research Contracts and Grants category: Total R&D Expenditures, Federal R&D Expenditures, Science & Engineering R&D Expenditures, Non-Medical R&D Expenditures, and the Number of Grants/Contracts

between two or more SUS Institutions. Ms. Sikes highlighted that almost all of the metrics in this category saw an increase from the previous year. Further, she shared that SUS federal research expenditures increased by 14% over the last five years. Research collaborations on federal awards between two or more SUS institutions increased by 55% over the previous year.

The next seven metrics fall into the Innovation category of the dashboard. These metrics include: Patents Awarded, Number of Industry-Related Grants and Contracts, Industry-Related R&D Expenditures, Number of Startups, Number of National Academy of Inventors Fellows, Number of I-Corps Teams, and the Number of Licenses and Options Executed. Ms. Sikes explained that the system's performance on the metrics in this category can vary from year-to-year. However, five of the seven metrics saw an increase from the previous year.

There are four metrics under the People category of the dashboard. These metrics include: Number of Undergraduate Students Engaged in Research, Doctoral Degrees Awarded, Number of Postdoctoral Appointees, and National Academy Members. Ms. Sikes shared with the Board that the number of National Academy members is up from the previous year, which is significant because it is a difficult metric to move. Three of the four metrics saw an increase from the previous year.

The final three metrics fall under the Return on Investment category. They are: the Total Number of Jobs Supported by External Funding, Economic Impact of State Funding, and Economic Impact of Federal Funding. All of these metrics increased from the previous year.

Ms. Sikes concluded her presentation with the following takeaways. The system continues to increase research expenditures, with the total coming in at nearly \$2.3 billion for 2020 and federal expenditures increasing by 14% in the last 5 years. System institutions are collaborating on 191 federal awards. Finally, the Return on Investment metrics continues to show increases in the number of jobs and economic impact the system's research brings to Florida.

Chair Jordan thanked Ms. Sikes for her presentation and commended the System's performance overall, especially during the recent pandemic. She also commended the ongoing research collaborations occurring within the system.

Governor Lydecker agreed with Governor Jordan's comments regarding ongoing research collaboration within the System. He then inquired if additional factors played into the 14% increase in federal expenditures, aside from collaboration among institutions. Ms. Sikes said that the Board staff would work to provide more information about what went into the increase. She also noted that this continues to be a topic of discussion between the SUS Vice Presidents for Research.

Ms. Sikes also shared that the SUS Vice Presidents for Research recently had a meeting with the White House Office of Science and Technology to discuss the Artificial Intelligence initiative at the University of Florida.

Governor Jordan thanked Ms. Sikes for her presentation Update on Implementation of section 1012.977, Florida Statutes.

4. Update on Implementation of s. 1012.977, F.S.

Governor Jordan explained that section 1012.977, Florida Statutes, was established by the 2020 Legislature and requires employees of a state university to comply with policies of the university, Board of Governors regulations, and state laws. The statute also requires that employees engaged in the design, conduct, or reporting of research to disclose and receive a determination that the outside activity or financial interest does not affect the integrity of the state university. She then recognized Dr. Daniel Flynn, Chair of the SUS Vice Presidents for Research, to update the implementation of the statute.

Dr. Flynn explained that the issue of conflicts of interest and commitment research was first raised at the November 9, 2018, Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU) meeting. It was a closed-door meeting, and it included a debriefing from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on the emergence of foreign threats and the security of American research and intellectual property. This was followed by the SUS Vice Presidents for Research (VPRs) attending a meeting in June 2019 sponsored by the APLU council for research. The focus of this meeting with federal agencies was to discuss protecting intellectual property and federally funded research. These efforts have also supported the ongoing efforts within the State of Florida to protect research.

Since then, there have been a number of new training modules deployed to educate faculty on these issues. New policies and procedures have been implemented, and new security systems have been put in place to ensure that all federal and state guidelines are followed. All 12 institutions have been compliant in all areas. Four institutions have completely set up the new trainings. University of Central Florida (UCF) offers a training module on outside activities and financial conflicts of interest with foreign entities. University of Florida (UF) developed an online training module for faculty. Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) has implemented an in-person training program. Finally, Florida Atlantic University has developed a webpage with a town hall format, and they have engaged regional offices of the FBI to help educate faculty on these issues.

Regarding the new or revised policies, Dr. Flynn shared that half of the institutions have completed their effort to develop new policies, and the other half are in the process of developing new policies. Florida State University recently updated its policies concerning federal financial interest disclosure. University of Florida revised three policies concerning conflicts of commitment, conflicts of interest, and financial interest disclosure. University of Central Florida and the University of West Florida made similar changes to their institutional policies.

Dr. Flynn updated the committee that half of the SUS institutions have new or revised procedures that have been completed, and the other half are in progress. Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University has hired a grants compliance coordinator to

monitor potential conflicts of interest and integrity issues. University of Florida has added additional questions to the financial disclosure system. The university also created a routing system to ensure that all appropriate offices are notified of any foreign conflicts of interest for monitoring.

Dr. Flynn reported that new or updated systems have been implemented by six of the twelve institutions, and the other six are in progress. Florida International University updated its electronic reporting system. University of Central Florida has added specific questions to existing questions on foreign entities and conflicts of interest.

Overall, Dr. Flynn shared that the SUS institutions have been very responsive to implementing s. 1012.977, F.S. Efforts to be in compliance are continuing and universities are partnering with other state and federal agencies as appropriate.

Governor Jordan thanked Dr. Flynn and inquired if he was comfortable overall with where the System stands in compliance with the statute and if he had a timeline for all institutions to comply. Dr. Flynn shared that the VPRs are comfortable with the System's progress, and they are maintaining an inventory of all of the programs in development. He also shared that he expects all institutions to be in compliance within the next few months.

Governor Lydecker inquired about the University of South Florida's (USF) progress in implementing the requirements in the statute. Dr. Flynn shared that USF is in progress with developing an outside activities disclosure system and will begin beta testing of the new system soon.

Governor Edge inquired if there was a specific target date for all institutions to be in compliance with the statute. Dr. Flynn shared that there is not a specific date, but implementation at all institutions should be completed within the next few months. He shared that he would work with Vice Chancellor England and Ms. Sikes to set a specific date and report back to the Board.

Governor Jordan thanked Dr. Flynn for his presentation.

5. SUS Vice Presidents for Research Update

Governor Jordan recognized Dr. Flynn to provide an update on the activities of the SUS Vice Presidents for Research.

The SUS VPRs met with the Interim Director of the White House Office of Science, Technology, and Policy (OSTP). The OSTP sets the priorities for future federal research. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the President's priorities and where the funding might be coming from. Potential priorities are likely to include the following.

- Business: Supply chain logistics, especially pandemics and vaccine roll-outs
- Health: Infectious diseases and developing new and rapid diagnostic testing, treatment, and prevention strategies

- TEAMS Grants to Hispanic Serving Institutions: Graduate and undergraduate level grants for Clean Energy, Climate Change, Social Justice, Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, The Bio-Economy (e.g., Ocean, Agriculture, and Health), and Space

This meeting allowed the SUS VPRs to share these insights with faculty about upcoming federal grant opportunities. Based on this conversation, there should be several additional opportunities to increase the federal research expenditures for the System by utilizing existing areas of strength within the System.

Governor Jordan thanked Dr. Flynn for his presentation.

6. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Governor Jordan adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Darlene Jordan, Vice-Chair

Jeremy M. Hudak
Assistant Director, Academic Affairs