

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
August 31, 2021

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

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Darlene Jordan convened the Academic and Student Affairs meeting at 3:44 p.m. with the following members present: Governors Lamb, Cerio, Frost, Haddock, Janvier, and Self. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of June 22, 2021, Committee Meeting

Chair Jordan asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2021, committee meeting. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Lamb seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer's Report

Chair Jordan recognized the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Christy England, to give an update on the activities of the Academic and Student Affairs unit.

Dr. England shared that the Office of Academic and Student Affairs continues to work diligently to support the Board and the state universities in the areas of academic affairs, student affairs, strategic planning, research, and economic development.

Dr. England and Ms. Emily Sikes have been working with the new Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help within the Executive Office of the Governor, known as REACH for short, regarding various components of House Bill 1507 pertaining to workforce development. This work has been ongoing since June 2021.

Mr. Roger Strickland led the Tuition Waiver Technical Advisory Group, which included representatives from all 12 SUS institutions, in a series of meetings to draft technical guidance regarding the implementation of the three new tuition and fee waivers: the Select STEM waiver, the Grandparent waiver, and the Free Seat waiver. Dr. Lynn Nelson from ASA, Mr. Dale Bradley and Ms. Sarah DeNagy from the Board's Budget Office, and Dr. Nancy McKee also made significant contributions to this effort. Mr. Strickland also worked with Enterprise Florida and Science is US to co-sponsor a virtual panel discussion on July 29 focused on veterans and defense in Florida.

Dr. Disraelly Cruz, Mr. Jeremy Hudak, and Ms. Lynda Page are actively involved in implementing changes to the Civics Literacy requirements prompted by Senate Bill 1108. In addition, Ms. Lynda Page will join the State University System admission directors on September 1st and 2nd for the second virtual admissions tour, which is in its 36th year of the admissions tour. After last year, the office realized that the virtual format enabled the institutions to reach a larger number of middle and high school counselors across the state. She thanked Chancellor Criser for providing a welcome video for this year's event. Dr. England also showed the admissions matrix handout and thanked FIU for developing and distributing the matrix to K-12 counselors across the state. She noted that in addition to outlining the minimum admissions requirements, the handout has detailed information about 2+2 enhancement programs.

Ms. Brittanian Gamble has been providing considerable assistance and support for the Civil Discourse Initiative led by Governor Cerio.

Finally, Dr. England shared that in late July the Office welcomed Tina Young as the new Director of Strategic Initiatives.

4. Academic Program Items

A. Termination of the Ed.D. in Exceptional Student Education, CIP 13.1001, Florida International University

Chair Jordan said the next item on the agenda was a request from Florida International University to terminate the Ed.D. in Exceptional Student Education, CIP 13.1001.

Chair Jordan mentioned that the request for termination was the result of the institution combining the program with an existing Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning. All students who were previously enrolled in the program graduated or transferred to the other program, and that enrollment into the program was suspended effective fall 2021. The Florida International University Board of Trustees approved the termination of the program on June 16, 2021. Chair Jordan explained that if the termination was approved by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and the Board of Governors, Florida International University would terminate the program effective spring 2022, with a phase-out term of spring 2022.

Chair Jordan asked for a motion to approve the termination of the Ed.D. in Exceptional Student Education, 13.1001, at Florida International University, effective spring 2022, with a phase-out term of spring 2022. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Lamb seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.006, Accelerated Mechanisms

Chair Jordan said the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of a Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.006, Accelerated Mechanisms. She then recognized Dr. England to give the presentation.

Dr. England reported that the proposed amendment to the regulation provides that, for initial admission, a grade point average for home education students cannot be mandated for students who meet standards set for by the common placement test. This requirement is based on statutory language in subsection 1007.271 paragraph (13). Although information and scores associated with the common placement test and acceptable alternatives are listed in Board of Governors Regulation 6.008, the current version of 6.006 does not directly reference Regulation 6.008. Dr. England explained that the proposed amendment specifically references Regulation 6.008, thereby providing clarity regarding the common placement test for home school students.

Chair Jordan asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.006, Accelerated Mechanisms. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Lamb seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

6. 2022-23 Legislative Budget Request

Chair Jordan introduced the next item on the agenda, which was for the committee to consider approval of a Legislative Budget Request, in the amount of \$6,620,000 in recurring funding, from the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University-Florida State University (FAMU-FSU) Joint College of Engineering. She explained that Legislative Budget Requests from the joint college have historically come to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee because FAMU and FSU jointly operate the College of Engineering.

FAMU and FSU are requesting funds for the joint college to support undergraduate student success, recruit additional joint faculty researchers, provide startup funds for research and equipment for faculty, improve faculty retention and vitality, and strengthen graduate programs. If approved by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, the Legislative Budget Request will be forwarded to the Board's Budget and Finance Committee for consideration.

Governor Jordan then recognized Dr. J. Murray Gibson, Dean of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, to present the request.

Dean Gibson highlighted several recent successes of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, including a major improvement in the US News and World Reports rankings. Additionally, the college has improved its second-year undergraduate retention rate, which is now 94%. Over the last five years, the college has seen an almost 40% improvement in the five-year graduation rate for undergraduate students, and the graduate enrollment rate and amount of external funding have both notably increased during the same time. He added that the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering is ranked as the number four producer of African-American doctorates in engineering nationwide. The undergraduate student demographics in the college are more closely aligned to the demographics of the state and nation than at any other College of Engineering in the country.

Dean Gibson continued by summarizing the sources of funding for the college and emphasized the need for the budget increase. Dean Gibson thanked the committee for the opportunity to present and concluded his presentation.

Governor Haddock also commended the college for its outstanding accomplishments. He then inquired how the college would utilize the \$1.35 million to improve student success.

Dean Gibson explained that the college has implemented several retention programs and living and learning communities based on best practices at FAMU and FSU. This funding would allow the college to expand these opportunities for more students and hire additional faculty. These initiatives would help improve time-to-degree and overall student success.

Governor Janvier inquired about the student organizations that exist in the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. Dean Gibson explained that the college has about 25 integrated student organizations and that resources, such as staffing, to support these organizations are critical. The staffing level is a challenge considering the complication of running a college, so providing support for all the students is a top priority.

FSU President, Dr. Richard McCullough, shared that FSU would love for the joint college to produce the largest number of doctorates in the country. He added that the newly founded Materials Science and Engineering Department would make a significant impact on the national rankings. Investing in the college was a great opportunity for the two universities to work together and improve economic and workforce development to create more jobs. Dr. McCullough shared that the enhancements for the joint college was something that he and President Robinson have discussed and has remained a shared goal for both universities.

Dean Gibson reiterated that the college is the number four producer of African American doctorates, and the college has increased enrollment by 70% among African American students at both FAMU and FSU over the last five years. He expects that the college will be the top producer in the next five years if these trends continue.

Governor Jordan thanked Dean Gibson for his presentation, expressed her support for the request, and commended the college for its success in a number of key areas of importance to the Board of Governors. She commended both presidents for their collaborative efforts.

Governor Jordan asked for a motion to approve the \$6,620,000 Legislative Budget Request for the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. Governor Haddock moved to approve. Governor Janvier seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Academic and Student Affairs Updates

A. SUS Council of Academic Vice Presidents (CAVP)

Chair Jordan recognized Dr. Kenneth Furton, Chair of the CAVP, who provided the following updates.

- CAVP has begun meeting bi-weekly.
- CAVP elected Dr. Maurice Edington as Vice Chair.
- The provosts discussed the civil discourse initiative.
- CAVP has been working with Vice Chancellor England on implementing different legislative initiatives such as the grandparent waiver and the Select Stem waiver.
- The provosts have continued to support the University Press of Florida, which has existed for 76 years, producing over 3,000 volumes and 80 new titles per year.
- CAVP is working with the Vice Presidents of Research to submit a funding proposal to the Economic Development Administration's American Rescue Plan, Build Back Better Challenge.
- Enrollments at the institutions are very strong, with most back to pre-COVID capacity.

B. Council for Student Affairs (CSA)

Chair Jordan recognized Dr. Mitch Cordova, Chair of the CSA, who provided the following updates.

- CSA has worked throughout the summer discussing the many ways campuses are assessing and mitigating the risks of COVID-19.
- During the first two weeks of the term, institutions prepared welcome back events, many with record attendance.
- Many institutions completed sorority recruitment and will continue to host more events throughout the fall term.
- Institutions are working to ensure that counseling services, student care services, student health services, and housing and resident staff provide the level of care students need.
- Institutions are preparing for and planning events during National Hazing Week, which will take place September 20-24.
- Through the efforts of the SUS Career Center Directors, progress has been made in developing a System framework for institutions to follow in addressing the elements outlined in House Bill 1261.
- Institutions are preparing data requests for the student wellness, alcohol and drug use, and mental health dashboard.
- CSA will be working collaboratively with the Florida Student Association to put on their conference, which will take place on October 16. The conference is open to students and student leaders across each institution.
- CSA elected Dr. D'Andra Mull, from UF, as Vice Chair.

C. Florida Student Association (FSA)

Chair Jordan recognized Governor Janvier, Chair of the FSA, who provided the following updates.

- In July, FSA held its retreat at the University of Florida. Attendees had the opportunity to go on campus and connect with the student government president. During the retreat, attendees participated in community service, which is a key focus for this year.
- Some activities sponsored by the student government association presidents over the past several weeks at some of the System institutions include.
 - New College of Florida held a student orientation that integrated student life and highlighted new students.
 - The University of Central Florida held giveaways for the students that included gear and merchandise.
 - The University of Florida gave out free rides with Lyft, which helped students get around on campus easily.
 - Florida State University and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University did a joint welcome back barbeque that incorporated city council, university leadership, and returning students.
- FSA continues to work with the Council of Student Affairs on their conference taking place on October 16 at the Turnbull Center. The conference is geared towards improving professional development.
- FSA is collaborating with the Florida Hospital Association to do a panel discussion and campaign on the vaccine, so students are encouraged to be safe on campus.

D. Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS)

Chair Jordan recognized Governor Self, who provided an update on the ACFS.

- ACFS unanimously passed a resolution asking for more local control in pandemic mitigation efforts. ACFS shared the resolution with the Board of Governors, legislative leaders, and the governor's office. Faculty senates around the state are voting to ratify the resolution or to have their own resolution. The University of South Florida passed their own unique resolution.
- Faculty wish they could do more for the safety of students and faculty, especially in the classroom.
- Faculty are concerned about what other efforts need to be taken after the Food and Drug Administration approves the vaccine.

8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Jordan adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

Darlene Jordan, Chair

Carole Lewis
Executive Assistant