

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
INNOVATION AND ONLINE COMMITTEE
November 4, 2021

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Kent Stermon convened the meeting at 11:37 a.m. on November 4, 2021, with the following members present: Timothy Cerio (out of room until 11:41 a.m.), Richard Corcoran (out of room until 11:41 a.m.), Edward Haddock, H. Wayne Huizenga, Nastassia Janvier (out of room until 11:41 a.m.), Charles Lydecker, and Dr. William Self. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

Governor Huizenga moved that the committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 31, 2021. Governor Haddock seconded the motion, and the members concurred.

3. SUS Planning for a Post-COVID World: Lessons Learned, Best Practices, and Future Considerations

Chair Stermon announced that the final report will be presented at the January Committee meeting.

Provost Danilowicz said that the Steering Committee met to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the cooperative extension program, which is a partnership between federal, state, and local governments to help universities translate scientific information into useful information for citizens. Both the University of Florida and Florida A&M University have cooperative extension missions. He said there are extension offices in every one of the 67 counties in the State of Florida and their focus is agricultural & natural resources, community resource development, family and consumer issues, and youth development.

He said the representatives of the cooperative extension programs discussed challenges, lessons learned, best practices, and recommendations. He stated that challenges included the need to maintain a presence and connectivity to county governments and their clients in a virtual manner. He stated there was a decline in engagement from clients who prefer face-to-face interaction, as well as with youth due to schools teaching remotely. Limited broadband access was also a particular challenge for their clients.

Provost Danilowicz said that operating in a virtual world allowed extension programs to be provided across county lines and extension agents to work closely with community health liaisons to speed the transmission of important

health messages into rural and urban communities. He said that other lessons learned by extension agents included how to better distribute their work to clients and publish their work in a different format, The extension agents learned that some virtual consultations were more time-efficient and just as effective as in-person consultations. In addition, the agents themselves were able to talk with each other with greater frequency.

Provost Danilowicz discussed recommendations that were mentioned by the cooperative extension group, which included:

- Help develop instructors' expertise and skills in hybrid and flex education because those are likely to become long-term components of how they work with counties;
- Maintain face-to-face programming while including some portion of extension in a remote manner;
- Continue partnerships with first responders to increase the speed at which health information is communicated to counties and clients;
- Through new virtual modalities, explore new educational areas such as workforce development, as well as health equity through telemedicine.

4. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Stermon adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

Kent Stermon, Chair

Nancy C. McKee, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor