

TASK FORCE ON ACADEMIC AND WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT

Recommendations



TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

JANUARY 2022

These recommendations are designed to create a path forward for stronger partnerships between the State Universities and Florida industries. The Board will receive an update from the universities on progress in these areas in June 2022. At that point, the Board may develop additional recommendations to continue to move the needle forward.

KEY QUESTIONS

How can Florida's universities broaden and strengthen their ties with the private sector and key industry stakeholders?

How can Florida's universities become more proactive in solving real-world problems faced by Florida industry?

How can the university system help the state reach the goal of being a top ten global economy by 2030?



RECOMMENDATION 1

CREATE A SYMBIOTIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN STATE UNIVERSITIES & FLORIDA BUSINESSES

The overall goal of this recommendation is to improve engagement with university leadership and Florida businesses.

- Each university president should know and maintain a relationship with the CEO of the five largest employers for their graduates. This includes personal phone calls, meetings, and other engagement opportunities.
- The dean of each college should know and maintain relationships with the CEO or c-suite executive of the five largest employers of graduates from their college. The deans shall report activities to their senior leadership who shall report to the president.
- Each dean shall review the industry advisory councils or councils for individual departments. If departments do not have advisory councils, they should develop a plan for establishing one and present this plan in the report identified below.
- Each university will compile a deans' report into an annual report to submit to the Board of Governors each year. Reports shall include
 - membership of advisory councils
 - last time the curriculum for a program was changed
 - activities completed
 - implementation plans for any programs without advisory councils
 - curricular changes
- University presidents should begin regularly attending meetings of statewide business groups. These include but are not limited to the Florida Chamber, Associated Industries of Florida, and Enterprise Florida.
- Each university should establish a point of contact at each institution for businesses that want to engage or partner in various activities (e.g., programs, research, or internships) and publish these contacts on their webpage. The Board office will also collect this list and post it on our “For Business” webpage, which will be shared with state economic development groups, regional economic development agencies, and site selector organizations.
- When a new business establishes a headquarters in the state, there is an expectation that the university president or appropriate senior leadership reach out to the business.
- Each university should develop a plan to engage businesses in research opportunities. The plan should include how the university can help solve real-world problems faced by Florida's industries.



RECOMMENDATION 2

PREPARE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM GRADUATES FOR THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE

- Universities must require all students within their first year to complete a profile in Handshake or Symplicity as part of a student's requirement to look at My Florida Future. This should be added to each institution's plan as part of the implementation of HB 1261.
- Explore the potential for centralized internship reporting on institutions' campuses. The Board will collect additional information from universities about this initiative, including the number and percentage of undergraduates who completed internships before graduation.
- Develop best practices for an institution-wide internship advisory council.
- Universities should implement a continuous feedback loop on internships from employers, including
 - communication of feedback to students and appropriate faculty in a timely fashion, and
 - incentives to employers to provide feedback on students completing both non-credit and for-credit internships.



RECOMMENDATION 3

SYSTEM-WIDE PLATFORM FOR INTERNSHIPS AND EMPLOYMENT

- The Board office will work with institutions to explore the pros and cons of moving to one platform for internships and employment, and make a recommendation based on this analysis.
- The Board office will provide a link to the Florida Career Center Consortium page and links to Handshake and Symplicity on its "For Business" page.
- Career center directors should present Handshake and Symplicity to the Florida Chamber Board and Florida Council of 100, and other statewide economic development groups as appropriate.



RECOMMENDATION 4

SYSTEM-WIDE GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS & EMPLOYERS

Board staff will facilitate workgroups to develop guidance in the following areas and invite feedback from statewide business groups such as The Florida Council 100 and Florida Chamber. The guidance shall be provided to the Board of Governors for review and approval in June 2022.

- Develop system-wide definitions of experiential learning
- Best practices for advisory councils for colleges and departments
 - Frequency of meetings
 - Communication to university leadership on activities
 - Membership of councils
- Develop system-wide guidelines for effective partnering with businesses

NEXT STEPS

JANUARY 2022

- Board considers recommendations
- Institutions adopt requirement for students to complete profiles & resumes

MARCH 2022

- Presidents provide updates on partnership activities

JUNE 2022

- Updates on recommendations 1 & 2
- System guidance on internships & business partnerships

