

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA
March 29, 2022

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

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Tim Cerio convened the Academic and Student Affairs meeting at 2:20 p.m. with Governors Edge, Frost, Haddock, Janvier, Scott, and Self present. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of January 25, 2022, Committee Meeting

Chair Cerio asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2022, committee meeting. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Scott seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer's Report

Chair Cerio 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 Academic and Student Affairs team has focused on implementing bills passed by the 2021 Legislature and preparing to implement bills passed by the 2022 Legislature. For instance, Mr. Roger Strickland has supported the Credentials Review Committee by participating in workgroups to develop recommendations on how Florida workforce supply and demand data could be used to inform a new master credentials list. He has also partnered with representatives from the Florida College System and the Florida Department of Education to provide webinars on the MyFloridaFuture graduate outcomes tool developed as required by legislation passed in 2021. In addition, Dr. Lynn Nelson has worked on implementing bills from the 2021 legislative session, including career planning in the state universities and digital badging in the general education core courses as required by House Bill 1507.

Dr. England explained that Senate Bill 7044 from the most recent legislative session addressed post-tenure review processes and authorized the Board of Governors to adopt a regulation requiring tenured state faculty members to undergo a post-tenure

review every five years. The bill states that the Board may include other considerations in the regulation, but the following areas must be addressed.

- Accomplishments and productivity
- Assigned duties in research, teaching, and service
- Performance metrics, evaluations, and ratings
- Recognition and compensation considerations
- Improvement plans and consequences for underperformance

Regarding the bill's language and implementation, Dr. England stated that she has engaged in discussions with the Council of Academic Vice Presidents and would continue to work closely with them, Board staff colleagues, and university staff on implementing this bill.

Finally, Dr. England noted that the 2022 Legislature also passed bills addressing a wide array of policy areas that the Academic and Student Affairs unit would work on in the months ahead, in addition to carrying out routine duties and responsibilities.

Board Chair Lamb commented that postsecondary faculty in Florida continued to improve the quality of research and prepare students for entering the workforce. He added that post-tenure reviews were vital for ensuring accountability across institutions, recruiting and retaining qualified faculty, and remaining competitive in the marketplace. He also stated that the Board would leverage the expertise of leaders from System institutions and include them in the implementation process once the bill has been signed into law by the Governor.

Governor Self remarked that, despite any potential challenges, Senate Bill 7044 presented an opportunity for the Board to make a positive impact. He also shared that he would be active in conversations about implementing this legislation.

Chair Cerio expressed his gratitude to Governor Self for being an invaluable partner and agreed with Board Chair Lamb's comments about working with System institutions on this process.

4. Implementation of Civil Discourse Recommendations

Next, Chair Cerio provided an update on the implementation of civil discourse recommendations. He stressed the importance of the recommendations in the Strategic Planning Committee's report approved at the Board's January meeting. The foundation for this work was the 2019 Board of Governors' Statement of Free Expression. This statement was signed by the twelve university presidents in support of a full and open discourse and a robust exchange of ideas and perspectives on all campuses.

Chair Cerio explained that the report included a comprehensive review of effective civil discourse programs nationally and in the State University System. With its approval, the Board affirmed a commitment to civil discourse by promoting, supporting, and regularly evaluating civil discourse in campus interactions. The report also highlighted

the critical role of leadership at postsecondary institutions, emphasizing that campus leaders would be accountable for supporting civil discourse on their campuses.

Lastly, Chair Cerio noted that the report directed the universities to address their commitment to civil discourse in their strategic and accountability plans. The Board also intended to include similar statements and principles in its strategic plan.

5. House Bill 1507 General Education Badging Update

Chair Cerio introduced the next item on the agenda, which was an update on implementing the general education core badges. He explained that House Bill 1507 required public postsecondary institutions to award students digital badges upon completing general education courses that demonstrate career readiness. The badges must be awarded and recognized by both the Florida College System and State University System. The first badge was required to be implemented for students entering a postsecondary institution in fall 2022. Chair Cerio then recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development, to provide an update on the implementation process for this bill.

Ms. Sikes stated that Board staff and staff from the Division of Florida Colleges collaborated to identify and align general education student learning outcomes with the career readiness skills recognized by the Florida Talent Development Council. Three guiding principles were established to achieve the overall goal of translating the knowledge obtained in these courses into skills that employers require. First, the digital badge would reframe student learning outcomes in the context of necessary workplace skills, not change the content of general education courses. Second, since faculty teaching the general education core courses were subject matter experts, they would be charged with defining the badge selection, identifying learning outcomes, and aligning the outcomes with essential skills in the workplace. Third, plans would be in place to ensure students could easily access information about their education and training. Ms. Sikes reported that university catalogs would list the digital badges available and explain how the digital badge could be earned, awarded, and made available to the student.

Ms. Sikes added that to ensure all Florida public postsecondary institutions recognized the badges, the current electronic transcript service, the Florida Automated System for Transferring Educational Records, would be modified to add fields for all general education digital badges. Institutions would be responsible for determining how this information would be available for students to share the digital badges earned with prospective and current employers.

Ms. Sikes shared that in fall 2021, the Florida College System and Board office identified the core area of communication to be the first badge. In January 2022, one faculty member from each System institution was identified to serve on the Fundamentals of Written Communication Committee alongside the Florida College System faculty. In February and March, the committee met to define effective written

communication, specify the learning outcomes of the core courses associated with the badge, and identify competencies aligned with the digital badge. Two follow-up surveys were conducted for faculty to provide feedback on revisions suggested by the committee. Ms. Sikes reported that the faculty committee's work was shared with the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help in the Governor's office, which distributed the draft to employers to validate the career readiness competencies. Over 46 employers across various industries provided feedback. After the Board staff worked with staff from the Division of Florida Colleges to incorporate the feedback, a final version was sent to the faculty committee for review. Finally, Ms. Sikes noted that a meeting would be held with the university registrars on April 1, 2022 to discuss the badging process.

Chair Cerio inquired about what process was in place to ensure that students could easily access information about their education and training.

Ms. Sikes replied that meetings had been held with various groups across institutions, including registrars and career centers, to ensure that digital badges would be placed on students' digital resumes. This information would also be accessible in digital catalogs.

6. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.011,
Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings

Chair Cerio introduced the next item on the agenda, which was to consider approval of the Public Notice to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.011, Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings. Dr. England was recognized to make the presentation.

Dr. England explained that Board of Governors Regulation 8.011, Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs, outlined the process System institutions must follow to implement new academic degree programs and other curricular offerings. During the 2020-21 Academic Year, Board staff met with the Council of Academic Vice Presidents Academic Coordinating Group members to review the regulation and the academic program approval process.

Dr. England remarked that many of the proposed amendments would better align the regulation with the current Board of Governors' and universities' processes. Also, the requirement to demonstrate workforce demand for advanced technology and related disciplines has been extended to include all academic programs, which has been an existing practice for many years. Language was also added to require New College of Florida to submit requests for master's programs to the Board for approval. Other proposed changes would clarify definitions, processes, and other requirements.

Finally, she clarified that the amendments would require a plan for a regular review of the alignment between curriculum and workplace needs.

Chair Cerio entertained a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.011, Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings. Governor Self moved to approve, Governor Janvier seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.013, Limited Access

Chair Cerio introduced the next item on the agenda, which was to consider approval of the Public Notice to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.013, Limited Access. Chair Cerio then recognized Dr. England to give the presentation.

Dr. England explained that at the January Board meeting, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee heard a presentation highlighting the results of the Board staff's evaluation of Regulation 8.013, Limited Access. The committee provided feedback regarding changes to this regulation, and the Board staff developed proposed revisions to the regulation based on that feedback. The proposed amendments would change the name from "limited access" to "specialized admissions," modify the criteria for seeking this status and clarify reporting and monitoring requirements for these programs.

Dr. England then provided a detailed overview of the proposed modified criteria and the recommended reaffirmation cycle. Under the first criteria, an institution would be able to seek specialized admissions status if the number of qualified students to be admitted to a program exceeded program resources. The specialized admissions status would be active for four years if approved under this criteria. The second criteria would be for programs where minimal skills are required for students to benefit from further instruction. These programs have typically required students to participate in an audition or submit a portfolio to evaluate their skill levels. If approved, the status under this criteria would be active for five years. The third criteria recognizes that some programs have regulating bodies with requirements that may require institutions to limit the number of students enrolled in a program. To qualify under this criteria, an institution would need to document those requirements and meet one of the other two criteria. Dr. England reported that the reaffirmation cycle for these programs would be based on the cycle for the other criteria under which the program qualifies.

Dr. England shared that for programs seeking specialized admissions due to limited resources or those classified as Programs of Strategic Emphasis, institutions would need to submit their application with a plan and timeline for increasing capacity or explaining why capacity could not be increased to meet student demand. The proposed revisions also include a requirement for institutions to ensure equitable access to these programs so that no student populations are disadvantaged due to the program's specialized admissions status.

Dr. England stated the proposed amendments would clarify and expand the annual reporting requirements to address resources, student demand, and equitable access. Finally, she noted that these changes would ensure more comprehensive annual reviews of each program, implementation of plans to expand capacity, and regular monitoring of the need for the specialized admissions status by the boards of trustees and the Board of Governors.

Governor Self remarked that the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates met to review the proposed regulations. He asked council members to gather feedback from faculty, students, or any other staff at institutions. Based on the council's review, there were no concerns about this regulation.

Chair Cerio entertained a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.013, Limited Access. Governor Frost motioned to approve, Governor Edge seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Academic and Student Affairs Updates

A. SUS Council of Academic Vice Presidents (CAVP)

Chair Cerio recognized the Chair of the Council of Academic Vice Presidents, Dr. Maurice Edington, who shared the following updates.

- In the council's bi-weekly meetings, there have been numerous conversations about new legislation, notably the requirements related to accreditation and post-tenure reviews outlined in Senate Bill 7044. The council has discussed timelines for moving to new accreditation agencies and how each university's internal procedures may need to be modified to support these efforts. Institutions have continued to seek feedback from faculty on post-tenure reviews.
- The council has also engaged in conversations about the need for faculty training on campuses to ensure compliance with House Bill 7.
- Discussions have also taken place about implementing recommendations from the Task Force of Academic and Workforce Alignment, carrying out civil discourse recommendations, and addressing feedback from counseling centers on staffing issues.

B. SUS Council for Student Affairs (CSA)

Chair Cerio recognized the Council for Student Affairs Chair, Dr. Mitch Cordova, who shared the following updates.

- Since the last report provided at the January committee meeting, the council has continued to support campuses in enrolling new students for the summer and fall terms.

- One of the council's key initiatives has been finalizing plans for the bi-annual Student Wellness Summit in June. At the summit, expert speakers will share their knowledge of best practices on using peer education, harm reduction, and threat assessment to improve student mental health and prevent hazing. Roundtable discussions will also occur at the summit to help student affairs professionals apply what they have learned to improve upon existing practices across each institution.
- In response to the Preparing for a Post-Pandemic World in the State University System report, the council has collaborated with counseling center directors to develop action steps to address the recommendation to expand digital services for mental health and substance abuse telecounseling. The action steps would also include developing a mechanism for System institutions to share telecounseling support services in times of crisis. The plan encompassing these action steps would be completed by June 10, 2022.
- Each institution's student codes of conduct and hazing policies are being reviewed to ensure compliance with Board regulations, Florida statutes, and federal regulations. The reviews will be completed by July 29, 2022.
- In collaboration with career center directors, the council has continued to work on implementing career readiness plans as a result of House Bill 1261.
- The council has also addressed the recommendation from the Task Force on Academic Workforce Alignment for each university to require all students in their first year to complete a profile in Handshake or Symplicity. The data request regarding this recommendation will be submitted by March 31, 2022.

C. Florida Student Association (FSA)

Chair Cerio recognized the Chair of the Florida Student Association, Governor Nastassia Janvier, who shared the following updates.

Governor Janvier stated that students have been working diligently on lobbying efforts this semester. Representatives from ten universities visited Tallahassee and engaged in meaningful conversations with state legislators about what has been happening on university campuses. Most student government association presidents have been transitioning out of their roles and actively supporting transition efforts for incoming presidents. Lastly, she shared that she has composed over ten recommendations for improving the association and would like to share that with the Board and the new leadership in the Florida Student Association.

D. Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS)

Chair Cerio recognized the Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates, Governor William Self, who shared the following updates.

- Since the last Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting, the council has actively worked together.
- In February, the council discussed pending legislation with state legislators. The council also met with Chancellor Marshall Criser III and Board staff to discuss legislative issues. The council intended to continue holding its annual meeting to discuss legislative issues with the state legislature and the Chancellor.
- Lastly, Governor Self mentioned that the council met last week to review the meeting materials for this committee meeting and discuss any issues or concerns over anything being presented to the Board.

9. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Cerio adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

Tim Cerio, Chair

Michael Stowell
Assistant Director for Academic Affairs