

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

*Video or audio archives of the meetings of the Board of Governors and its committees are accessible at <http://www.flbog.edu/>.*

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Jordan convened the meeting on March 29, 2022, at 2:03 p.m., with the following members present: Governors Lydecker, Edge, Jones, Levine, Scott, and Stermon. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of the January 25, 2022, Committee Meeting

Chair Jordan asked for a motion to approve the January 25, 2022, committee meeting minutes. Governor Lydecker moved to approve, Governor Jones seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. SUS Research and Innovation Dash Board Update

Chair Jordan said the next item on the agenda was an update regarding the State University System Research and Innovation Dashboard. She stated that at the September 2016 meeting, the Board approved a 19-metric dashboard to document the progress that the System is making toward the expenditure goal and the System's progress towards achieving national and international prominence in research. The dashboard includes metrics that quantify research activity and growth in the categories of "Research Contracts and Grants," "Innovation," "People," and "Return on Investment." Chair Jordan said the first dashboard was presented to the Academic and Research Excellence Committee at the March 2018 meeting, and updates have been provided annually.

Chair Jordan recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development, to present the 2022 Research and Innovation Dashboard results to the committee.

Ms. Sikes stated that the Board had been committed to elevating the System's research profile over the past few years. She said initiatives devoted to this effort included establishing the Academic and Research Excellence Committee and supporting the Board, legislature, and Governor's office for the world-class faculty and scholar program. This program promotes the recruitment and retention of exemplary faculty and research scholars and elevates the national competitiveness of Florida's universities. Ms. Sikes reported the Vice Presidents of Research continue to meet regularly to discuss System issues related to research and have had virtual meetings with various federal agency staff, including staff from the Department of Commerce and

National Institutes of Health.

Ms. Sikes reviewed the Research and Innovation Dashboard and its four categories: Research Grants and Contracts, Innovation, People, and Return on Investment.

Ms. Sikes said performance year-over-year has increased across all research, grants, and contracts metrics. She reported that the system's expenditures increased by 14% in the last five years, demonstrating that the institutions have successfully competed for federal research awards. Ms. Sikes commented that Florida is ranked nationally as the fifth largest public higher education system for research expenditures. Ms. Sikes reported that the research collaboration metric is limited to federal awards where a System institution is the lead and must collaborate with at least one other institution in the System. She noted that System institutions collaborated on 190 federal research awards in the past year, about the same as the prior year.

Next, Ms. Sikes described innovation metrics as patents, awards, licenses, start-ups, and industry-related grants and contracts. She reported that most of the metrics improved from the prior year. Ms. Sikes highlighted that the System ranked second for the most United States patents issued to colleges, universities, and institutes, ranking behind the University of California System.

Ms. Sikes stated the Research and Innovation Dashboard's third category, People, includes doctoral degrees, postdocs, national academy members, and undergraduate students engaged in research. She noted this is the second year of data for the number of undergraduates involved in research, which is tracked by changes implemented in the senior exit survey. Ms. Sikes said institutional percentages range from 11% to 100% and anticipates an improvement in data on this metric and continued progression over time. Ms. Sikes commented that the overall increase this year shows the institutions are committed to providing undergraduates with research experience.

Ms. Sikes presented the final category of the dashboard, Return on Investment. This category includes the number of jobs supported by external funding and the economic impact of state and federal funding. She said the Return on Investment metrics continue to show an increase in the number of jobs that research produces and the economic impact of System research on the state of Florida.

Chair Jordan commented that the numbers are striking, highlighting the economic impact and patent metrics.

Board Chair Lamb asked about the commercialization of research in the state of Florida. Ms. Sikes pointed to the positive trends in the Innovation section of the dashboard. She specifically noted the number of I-Corps teams, which increased from 82 in 2021 to 144 in 2022, and stated there are a lot of commercialization activities across the System.

Board Chair Lamb requested information on the industries and where this commercialization is happening to help connect concepts across committees.

Governor Self commented on the growth of research funding. He asked how many

active research faculty it would take to get from the current research funding of \$2.3 billion to the System goal of \$3 billion and apply that to a five-year goal. Ms. Sikes said the federal data available for comparison is older than available Florida data, and some of the numbers may not reflect recent hiring initiatives. Governor Self stated that the System should make it a goal to be third on the list of federal research expenditures.

4. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Jordan adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

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Darlene Jordan, Chair

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Dr. Disraelly Cruz, Director  
of Planning and Policy