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#### MINUTES STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA PENSACOLA, FLORIDA September 14, 2022

## 1. Senator Broxson

Prior to the convening of the Full Board Meeting, Chair Lamb introduced Senator Doug Broxson to the Board of Governors for brief remarks to the Board. Senator Broxson welcomed everyone to Pensacola and thanked the Board for working with him over the past two years. Several institutions have invited him to visit their campuses and he is very impressed with how the universities are meeting the needs of the people of Florida. He recognizes the universities compete for state funding, but expressed appreciation for university presidents and staff negotiating with legislators on what is important to their institutions. He looks forward to the next legislative session and indicated Florida is in an enviable position compared to other states given its strong revenue stream. Senator Broxson congratulated the universities for supporting students and the work they do to help move Florida forward.

Chair Lamb thanked Senator Broxson for addressing the Board and for his service.

## 2. Call to Order

On September 14, 2022, Chair Brian Lamb convened the meeting at 11:13 a.m. with the following members present and answering roll call: Vice Chair Eric Silagy; Tim Cerio; Manny Diaz; Aubrey Edge; Patricia Frost; Nimna Gabadage; Ed Haddock; Ken Jones; Charles Lydecker; Craig Mateer, Deanna Michael, Steven Scott, and Kent Stermon.

#### 3. Chair's Report to the Board of Governors

Chair Lamb started his remarks by thanking the chairs, presidents, and members for their high levels of engagement. He also thanked President Saunders and Chair Lewis for hosting the meeting.

Chair Lewis thanked the Board and everyone for visiting the UWF campus. She commended President Saunders for her vision and leadership, noting she has excelled in all areas including academic rigor, health and wellness of students, faculty, and staff, and service to the community and region. Chair Lewis also acknowledged the UWF Board of Trustees and their commitment and engagement in all aspects of the university.

Chair Lewis indicated UWF continues to advance in the Board of Governors' performancebased funding model, with an upward trend in the metrics overall, and notably in metrics 1 and 4. UWF has been No. 1 on metric 1 for three consecutive years, with more than 72% of UWF bachelor's graduates employed or furthering their education one year after graduation. She also applauded the great strides UWF has made on metric 4, marking the largest increase in percentage points from the previous year in the State University System for graduation rates with an 11% increase. She said UWF is committed to preparing students to face the challenges and demands of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century global society. With the guidance and participation of business community partners, the university works to ensure students are workforce ready and able to collaboratively tackle the issues of the future.

President Saunders reflected on when UWF first opened its doors, beginning as a senior college and then moving to become a comprehensive university. She said if she could describe UWF in two words, it would be place and space. She indicated that UWF is located in one of the most historic areas of the country, established in 1559 by Spanish settlers. The UWF Historic Trust manages 29 properties that attract thousands of visitors every year. It also attracts faculty and researchers who seek to examine water quality, marine life, shoreline ecosystems, etc. that are necessary to sustain the region. The campus itself is a 1,600-acre wildlife sanctuary that is home to endangered species, with over 40 miles of trails.

President Saunders reported that UWF is currently experiencing record enrollment and record fundraising, with enhanced visibility. Looking ahead, UWF is preparing students to meet their career and life goals by aligning academic programming to the needs of businesses and industries, and by leveraging the strengths of the university and the region. President Saunders then introduced UWF SGA President, Patrick Marshall.

Mr. Marshall shared his experience as SGA President at UWF. As President, his job is to ensure that students from all backgrounds and walks of life feel included, engaged, and supported. He expressed gratitude to the university's leadership, who are committed to maintaining a culture of inclusiveness at UWF. He indicated one in 5 students at UWF is military affiliated or a veteran. He believes the Argo spirit is strong at UWF and because of it, they will break boundaries together and create a brighter future. He then introduced a video showcasing student experiences at UWF. Chair Lamb thanked Chair Lewis and President Saunders for the presentation.

Chair Lamb applauded the State University System for the great outcomes as evidenced by the recently released rankings from *U.S. News and World Report.* Six out of 12 institutions have improved significantly year over year and UF continues to hold firm in the top 5. FAMU continues to be ranked as the No.1. public HBCU and has nearly reached the top 100. He stated that when he looks across the 12 institutions, it is clear the System is getting a lot of things right. He congratulated the boards of trustees, the presidents, the students, and the faculty for their efforts.

Chair Lamb said that when the year began, he made commitments around things he wanted the System to accomplish. In the previous board meeting, progress was achieved around regulations. He plans to revisit this issue in November to see if there are other opportunities for empowering boards of trustees.

Chair Lamb said another priority is for the Board to hear the voices of the presidents. The last two meetings have been positive and there were a few takeaways from the meeting where he has asked a few presidents to step up. It is his expectation for presidents to engage more with the Board of Governors around strategies and policies impacting the System. He remarked that the Trustee Summit will be held in conjunction with the next meeting in November. He said the trustees and board chairs have been very engaged and encouraged all trustees to attend.

# 4. Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

# 5. Recognition of Outgoing Chancellor Marshall M. Criser III

Chair Lamb remarked on Chancellor Criser's commitment to the State University System and the Board of Governors over the past nine years. Ms. Vikki Shirley, the Board's General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary read a resolution honoring Chancellor Marshall M. Criser III for his service to the Board and the State University System.

Mr. Cerio moved the adoption of the resolution honoring Chancellor Marshall M. Criser III. Mr. Silagy seconded the motion and the members concurred unanimously.

Mr. Jones said he has known Chancellor Criser since he was a sophomore in college at Florida State University in 1992. He was struck then by how much Chancellor Criser gave back to his community. He recalled meeting Chancellor Criser and his wife through a charity tennis tournament for the Children's Miracle Network and was impressed with their dedication to this worthy cause. He thanked Chancellor Criser, stating it was a pleasure to meet him 30 years ago and that it has been a pleasure to work with him over the past few years. He wished the Chancellor well in his future endeavors. Chancellor Criser thanked Governor Jones for his kind remarks.

#### 6. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Criser displayed a copy of Florida Trend's NEXT magazine. He said this material is sent to high school juniors and seniors and includes information about the System and what their future could look like. The magazine includes sections that showcase student highlights and the successes of the System. The magazine also provides information on tuition and fee waivers enacted by the Legislature, along with special opportunities that exist in Florida. A QR code is featured on the spread that brings students directly to MyFloridaFuture.org. Through the partnership with Florida Trend, these spreads will be included in one of the editions of their normal magazine, which is distributed to businesses and other leaders across the State.

Chair Lamb explained the feature article talks about how 75% of Florida resident undergraduates are attending state universities without a loan. Chair Lamb recognized the universities for all the hard work done at the university level to keep higher education affordable.

# 7. Chancellor Search Committee Recommendation, New Chancellor

Chair Lamb stated that a Search Committee had been formed in July to locate the next chancellor. The Committee was comprised of Chair Lamb, Mr. Silagy, Mr. Cerio, Ms. Frost, and Mr. Lydecker. The position profile was advertised nationally for 30 days and generated interest from applicants across the globe. Dr. Lori Cromwell and Senator Ray Rodrigues were selected as finalists to be interviewed by the Search Committee. Chair Lamb indicated the playbook used to select Chancellor Criser was instrumental in conducting this search.

Following interviews with the two candidates, the Search Committee unanimously decided to bring one candidate forward to the full Board for consideration, Senator Ray Rodrigues. Chair

Lamb said Senator Rodrigues has ten years of experience in the House and Senate, along with many years of experience in the State University System, as well as in the private sector. He then called on Senator Rodrigues to address the Board.

Senator Rodrigues said it was very humbling to be considered as the next chancellor. He said he was a first-generation college student and his parents set an expectation from early on that he would work hard in high school, graduate, and go to college. Obtaining a bachelor's degree opened doors, which is why he is passionate about higher education and student success. After graduating with his bachelor's degree, he had the opportunity to work for General Electric. He recounted his experience at General Electric and the leadership skills he attained through his association with GE. He also spoke about his service in the House and Senate, which provided him the opportunity to work with the Chancellor and Board of Governors members.

Senator Rodrigues said that the System and the Board of Governors have ensured Florida's commitment to student success. He acknowledged that the bar is set high, but this is an opportunity of a lifetime to work with the Board and the institutions in this capacity.

Mr. Silagy said he was honored to serve on the Selection Committee and echoed Chair Lamb's comments. He thought they utilized a good search process and was pleased with the responses that were received. Mr. Silagy said the quality of the candidates spoke to the reputation of the System and the Board. He said Senator Rodrigues brings a strong mix of experiences both personally and professionally. He remarked that Senator Rodrigues' experience in the private sector and at the university level, along with experience with budgets and the legislature, made him a great candidate. He also said Senator Rodrigues has a solid understanding of how Florida works and his upbringing has spoken to the importance of higher education. Mr. Silagy said it is clear that Senator Rodrigues is the right person to fill the chancellor position.

Mr. Silagy moved to confirm the appointment of Mr. Ray Rodrigues as Chancellor with a delegation of authority to the Chair to negotiate an employment agreement with Mr. Rodrigues, and to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board. Mr. Lydecker seconded the motion, and the members concurred unanimously.

Chair Lamb congratulated Senator Rodrigues and welcomed him to the Board of Governors. He thanked the Senator for his patience during this process and said they were happy to have him on board.

Senator Rodrigues thanked Chair Lamb for the opportunity. He then introduced his wife, Ruth Rodrigues. He said that Ruth originally started at FGCU and encouraged him to teach at the university alongside her. He indicated this is a big sacrifice for her but that it is his dream job. Senator Rodrigues complimented the staff at the Board of Governors, stating that he has worked with Board staff as a legislator.

He remarked he is thrilled to be in a state where the Governor has changed the entire educational system, where the goal is to provide the highest quality education at the most affordable price. He is looking forward to continuing to build on the momentum of the Board, and he is humbled by the opportunity.

# 8. Presidential Search Update

A. Florida International University

Chair Lamb called on Ms. Frost, the Board's designee to the FIU Presidential Search Committee. Ms. Frost reported the Search Committee is working with R. William Funk & Associates to search for FIU's sixth President. The Committee held a public meeting on June 1, 2022, to address the search process with the search firm. Since then, the Committee has met numerous times with the search firm to recruit and vet applicants. She said recruitment efforts continue. Ms. Frost said Interim President Ken Jessell has been doing a great job and she will provide an update at the next meeting.

FIU Board of Trustees Chair Dean Colson added to the comments. He said today was the fiftieth anniversary of FIU. He said the search is going well and they are optimistic about the new search process, which has resulted in exceptional applicants.

Chair Lamb thanked Ms. Frost and Chair Colson for their input and for assisting in the process. He was pleased to hear the new law is helping with recruitment efforts. He emphasized that FIU has the Board's full support in finding the next president of the university.

B. Florida Gulf Coast University

Chair Lamb called on Ms. Shirley, who filled in for Ms. Jordan, to provide the Presidential Search Committee update for Florida Gulf Coast University. Since the last report, the Committee has met twice, on July 29 and September 1. On July 29<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Compensation Firm, The Segal Group, made a presentation based on feedback they received from their initial report. To that end, several modifications were made to FGCU's peer group. Private institutions were deleted; UNF and other universities in Florida were added; and lastly, they sought out schools with a higher Carnegie Classification to more closely align with FGCU's enrollment numbers. At that meeting, AGB, the search consultant, advised there were 75 applicants in the applicant pool, several of whom are sitting presidents.

On September 1, the Committee reviewed the applicant pool in a closed session to determine which applicants should be advanced to the interview stage. AGB announced that the volume and quality of the applicant pool were extraordinary, with 122 applicants. AGB believed the robust response was due, in some part, to the new legislation regarding presidential searches. The Search Committee worked through the pool of applicants and decided on ten applicants, and three alternates to be advanced. The closed interviews are scheduled for September 20 and 21.

Chair Gable said the FGCU Board of Trustees has a meeting scheduled for October 17 to interview the three candidates that come out of the Search Committee, with the expectation for the final candidate to be brought forward in November for confirmation.

C. University of Florida

Chair Lamb called on Mr. Lydecker, the Board's designee to the University of Florida Presidential Search. Mr. Lydecker said the search has been underway since the search firm of SP&A was selected in April. The Committee has been working with the search firm and will be identifying candidates and selecting finalists to be presented to the UF Board of Trustees. The President-elect will be presented to the Board of Governors for interview and confirmation.

Mr. Lydecker said SP&A continues making contact with prospects and the Search Committee Chair Rahul Patel continues to have individual conversations with prospects. The Committee is

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in the process of scheduling meetings with prospects and Search Committee members at this time. To date, SP&A has contacted over 700 individuals. Categories of individuals contacted include the following: from AAU and R1 institutions: sitting and former Presidents and Chancellors; sitting Provosts; Vice Presidents for Research and Deans; Presidents of certain R2 institutions; senior leaders at higher education professional associations and foundations (AAU, AASCU, etc.); senior leaders at governmental agencies (e.g. NSF, NIH, DOE, DARPA, etc.); and nontraditional prospects within the private industry, not-for-profit, and government sectors.

Mr. Lydecker said the Committee hopes to begin the process of selecting finalist candidates in the next month.

Chair Lamb thanked Ms. Frost, Ms. Shirley, and Mr. Lydecker for their reports and the search committees for their work.

## 9. Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Silagy moved approval of the slate of items on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Cerio seconded the motion, and the members concurred unanimously.

## 10. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Lamb announced that the next in-person meeting is scheduled for November 9-10 for the Trustee Summit and Board meeting at the University of South Florida. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m. on September 14, 2022.

Brian Lamb, Chair

Vikki Shirley, Corporate Secretary