

## MINUTES

### STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

#### ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 13, 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 Tim Cerio convened the meeting at 10:56 a.m. with Governors Edge, Diaz, Corcoran, Frost, Gabadage, Haddock, Michael, and Scott present. A quorum was established.

#### 2. Minutes of the June 29, 2022, Committee Meeting

Chair Cerio asked for a motion to approve the June 29, 2022, committee meeting minutes. Governor Gabadage moved to approve, Governor Frost seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### 3. Civil Discourse University Updates

Chair Cerio stated that in June, the Board asked the universities to provide updates on the implementation of the Board's civil discourse recommendations. He explained that the progress reports were submitted in July and are in the meeting materials.

Chair Cerio recognized the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Christy England, to provide an overview of the status of the Board's civil discourse recommendations.

Dr. England provided the framework that serves as a foundation for the seven civil discourse recommendations approved by the Board in January 2022. The institutions submitted a preliminary progress report to Board staff in July.

Dr. England provided updates on the implementation of each of the recommendations.

Dr. England reported on the recommendation regarding university leadership's commitment to open-minded and tolerant civil discourse. All 12 universities have established a committee or task force to oversee the implementation of the recommendation of civil discourse initiatives. Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University developed a vision statement, while Florida Gulf Coast University created a university-specific Statement of Free Expression.

Dr. England stated that multiple universities reported hosting or planning to host a dialogue series, debates, and other public events. She mentioned Florida Atlantic University's Breezeway Dialogues as an example, which features a moderator and multiple panelists who present opposing sides of a selected topic with interaction from the audience members. Dr. England reported other dialogue series that promote open discussion and learning opportunities, including New College's Bayfront Dialogues and the University of North Florida's Difficult Conversations Series. In addition, the University of Florida's new Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education will launch a public event series to promote the values of civil discourse and viewpoint diversity.

Dr. England further explained that universities reported incorporating civil discourse educational and training opportunities for students, faculty, and staff. She noted this past summer, Florida Atlantic University also introduced a new civil discourse training to incoming first-year and transfer students, who must complete it before their first week of class.

Next, Dr. England presented the status of including a specific endorsement of the Board's Statement of Free Expression and a clear expectation for open-minded and tolerant civil discourse throughout the campus community in each university's Accountability Plan and Strategic Plan. She concluded that most universities included statements in the 2022 accountability plans, and some have added endorsements to strategic plans.

Dr. England provided an update on university leaders' commitment to the principles of free expression and civil discourse. The recommendation encourages the leadership of each university board of trustees, faculty senate, and student government to annually review and endorse the Board's Statement of Free Expression and commit to the principles of civil discourse. Dr. England reported that the first such reviews are ongoing this academic year.

Next, Dr. England reported on the annual reviews of student orientation programs, student codes of conduct, and employee policies and procedures, by the board of trustees and administration. Dr. England stated that personnel policies, student and employee orientation programs, and student codes of conduct are critical to setting the tone for a climate of open dialogue and tolerance for civil discourse on campus. All 12 institutions reported that the staff reviews of these policies and programs are currently underway, and their board's reviews will follow the staff's reviews.

Dr. England then provided findings on the recommendation regarding presidential evaluation and renewal cycle. Beginning with the 2022 presidential evaluation and renewal cycle, as a part of a university president's evaluation, the Chair of the Board of Governors will consult with the university board of trustee's chair to review the campus free speech climate.

Dr. England provided an update on the final recommendation to implement various best practices identified during the committee's review of effective university civil discourse programs and initiatives. One type of best practice is instilling the importance of civil

discourse, academic freedom, and free speech by utilizing student and employee orientation sessions. The University of Florida's orientation program, which emphasizes civil discourse, academic freedom, and free speech in its discussion on the code of conduct, is an example of this best practice. The library at Florida Polytechnic University is developing a series of web guides to promote and connect faculty, staff, and students with informational resources and reading suggestions that cultivate a culture of civil discourse.

Dr. England noted that fostering intellectual diversity with university leadership is an additional best practice. This fall, Florida Gulf Coast University is hosting a leadership summit, including university senior leadership and leadership from the faculty senate, board of trustees, and student government, to discuss the importance of civility in the workplace and classroom.

Dr. England reported that campus workgroups are working to avoid disinvitations for campus speakers. The workgroups are developing clear, viewpoint-neutral policies and procedures governing the invitation and accommodation of campus speakers.

Next, Dr. England provided an update on how universities provide targeted professional development opportunities for administrative employees to reinforce free expression and open-minded debate forums. Institutions reported that personnel in human resources are collaborating with staff in the equity offices to ensure that the principles of civil discourse and free expression are in staff training programs. Dr. England noted that Florida Polytechnic University implemented training for supervisors titled "Leading with Respect," which focuses on the behaviors that contribute to a respectful and inclusive organizational environment. The University of Florida's human resources department is delivering training to faculty and staff that describes cultivating skills and practices essential for civil discourse.

Dr. England stated the final type of best practice identified in the Board's recommendations is to encourage faculty to establish and maintain a learning environment in their classrooms and offices that supports open dialogue and the free expression of all viewpoints. One example is a website for faculty with resources for engaging in civil pedagogy developed by the Karen L. Smith Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Central Florida. Dr. England noted that Florida State University is creating a website for faculty and instructors that provides readings and resources on national programs and initiatives to promote and support civil discourse. Finally, the Center for the Advancement of Teaching at Florida International University is collaborating with the Office of Faculty Leadership & Success to offer support sessions and sample syllabi language to help faculty initiate and manage discourse and free expression in the classroom.

Dr. England concluded her presentation by reporting that in October, the universities will submit another update which the Board staff will bring to the committee in November.

Chair Cerio remarked on the importance of these recommendations. He observed that the meaning of free speech, civility, and tolerance could be different from different

perspectives. He recommended that university teams continue implementing best practices regarding civil discourse, referring to the university system statement of free expression and the Board of Governors' final report on civil discourse. He thanked university leadership for their hard work and encouraged them to review and develop best practices.

Governor Michael asked what metrics are used to evaluate university presidents on the university climate relative to evaluating civil discourse.

Dr. England responded that the chair of the Board of Governors would consult with the university board of trustees' chair to review the university's campus free speech climate. The review includes adherence to the principles outlined in the Board's statement of free expression, the occurrence and resolution of any issues related to the university's compliance with substantiated violations of section 1004.097, Florida Statutes, and the implementation of best practices promoting civil discourse.

#### 4. 2+2 Enhancement Program Self-Evaluations

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. England to provide an update on the State University System's 2+2 enhancement programs.

Dr. England first provided history on the 2+2 program, noting that Florida has been a national leader in 2+2 articulation. Florida Statutes direct the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors to enter into a statewide articulation agreement. She explained that 2+2 agreements allow the smooth transfer of students from the Florida College System into the State University System. Board of Governors Regulation 8.007 further codifies expectations for A.A. Florida College System transfer students.

Dr. England said that in 2016, then Board Chair Tom Kuntz challenged the Board to increase access to affordable post-secondary degrees for all students and asked Governor Levine to Chair the Select Committee on 2+2 Articulation. After hearing from experts in the State University System, the Florida College System, and key staff in the Department of Education, the committee learned some institutions had targeted 2+2 programs for specific degree programs. These targeted programs also provide additional support for students and are referred to as 2+2 enhancement programs. Dr. England explained that the Florida legislature passed Senate Bill 190, requiring all System institutions to establish at least one 2+2 enhancement program. In response to the committee's recommendation that each program conducts regular self-evaluations, the Board of Governors approved a rubric for institutions to self-assess 2+2 program implementation in 2019. Board staff presented the first assessment in July 2020.

Dr. England reported that the number of partnerships between State University System institutions and Florida colleges has increased by 47% since 2018. However, she explained that there had been a decrease in Florida College System students seeking A.A. degrees. The System has received fewer applications from A.A. recipients but has admitted a higher percentage of applicants to keep enrollment steady. Three universities saw an increase in 2+2 enhancement transfer program students.

Enhancement program students represent 44% of all enrolled Florida College System A.A. transfer students in the State University System.

Dr. England explained that the self-evaluation rubric includes evaluations of academic transitions, campus cultural transitions, administrative oversight, and data support. In addition, the universities also obtained feedback from their Florida College System partners.

Dr. England reported that the academic transition self-evaluations showed good progress in implementing curricular alignment and learning outcomes and providing access to coaches and advisors from the colleges and universities. However, institutions frequently note they have not yet completed the development and distribution of term-by-term course plans or maps for students.

Dr. England then presented self-evaluations around campus cultural transitions, which indicate many essential activities are in place. Best practices to ensure a better cultural transition include inviting students from the Florida College system partner institution to university events, allowing students to access university services, and providing detailed information about university tuition, fees, and financial aid.

Next, Dr. England described findings related to administrative oversight, which show a significant portion of activities implemented. She noted institutions report strong collaboration and communication between colleges and universities. Some institutions are still working on governance structure and marketing plans.

Regarding data support, Dr. England reported that several partnerships use data to monitor student progress and provide information to faculty at the institutions. However, some newer partnerships are working on this.

Dr. England stated that college system partner feedback was positive regarding academic collaboration, regular meetings between staff, presence of university staff on college campuses, university campus tours, annual curriculum reviews, and access to student data after the move to the university. College system partners noted that areas for growth include more academic maps, additional university campus tour opportunities, conducting annual reviews of program agreements, and enhanced data-sharing processes.

Dr. England explained that the next steps for program evaluations include working with universities on implementing the 2+2 Enhancement Program, Board staff follow-up with specific universities, and the 2024 self-evaluation review.

Governor Levine commended the university and college system's progress. He questioned whether students who take courses out of order for their majors were having challenges transferring the credit.

Dr. England responded that this issue has subsided and that Board staff continue to work with advisors to help make sure students have the correct information.

## 5. Articulation Coordinating Committee Credit-by-Exam Equivalencies

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Disraelly Cruz, Director of Policy and Planning, to present on the Articulation Coordinating Committee's Credit-by-Exam Equivalencies list.

Dr. Cruz noted that credit-by-exam is a mechanism students can use to shorten their time to a degree. Students in high school may take Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses that introduce the student to information they would receive at a public post-secondary institution. Students that pass exams in these courses may receive credit for the equivalent course at the post-secondary institution. The Florida Department of Education annually coordinates a cross-sector faculty review of changes to nationally recognized assessments that link exams with post-secondary course credit. The faculty review group looks at student learning outcomes for the assessments and links the assessments to courses in the statewide course numbering system. The group submits the list to the Articulation Coordinating Committee for approval. After approval from the committee, the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education must also approve the list.

Dr. Cruz presented the modification of credit equivalencies for four mathematics exams offered through the International Baccalaureate for Board approval. The Articulation Coordinating Committee approved the revisions at its July 21, 2022, meeting.

Chair Cerio asked for a motion to approve the Articulation Coordinating Committee's Credit-by-Exam Equivalencies. Governor Edge moved to approve, Governor Michael seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## 6. Articulation Coordinating Committee Credit for Military Experience Equivalency List

Chair Cerio explained that the Board approved the Credit for Military Experience Equivalency List at its November 2021 meeting. The Articulation Coordinating Committee made further recommended changes at its July 21, 2022, meeting, modifying the list to include more details regarding specific credit hours and clock hours to be awarded by the institutions for military experience and courses.

Chair Cerio asked for a motion to approve the Articulation Coordinating Committee's Credit for Military Experience Equivalency List. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Scott seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## 7. Academic Program Items City Lab-Jacksonville

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Cruz to present the University of Florida's request to establish CityLab-Jacksonville as a new special purpose center pursuant to Board of Governors Regulation 8.009, Educational Sites.

Dr. Cruz presented that Board of Governors Regulation 8.009, Educational Sites, provides a taxonomy of categories used to classify the various locations where the institutions' teaching, research, and service activities occur. Institutions may have

additional locations that are separate from the main campus and serve up to 2,000 students. Those locations that serve less than 300 students and conduct research or serve the community in another capacity may be classified as special purpose centers.

Dr. Cruz explained that the University of Florida is requesting to establish another CityLab location, which will offer the Master of Architecture and the Master of Science in Architectural Studies. There is already a CityLab location in Orlando. These sites allow students from the local community to pursue graduate studies in architecture while living in and studying the design of an urban environment. While the CityLab locations may share resources, faculty, and library resources, each location develops its research agenda and courses tied to its specific environment. Dr. Cruz reported that CityLab Jacksonville would focus on the intersection between natural and constructed environments.

Dr. Cruz said the projected enrollment for year one and year five is fewer than 300 students, which is below the threshold for the location to be considered a Type III campus. The CityLab location in Jacksonville would also serve as a site for the university to conduct research. Dr. Cruz reported that these factors qualify the site as a special purpose center.

Dr. Cruz noted that the academic programs would be self-funded. The program's anticipated budget for year one is \$286,986, with the funds coming from tuition and donated funds from the University of Florida Foundation. The University of Florida anticipates the budget will increase to \$933,591 by year five.

University of Florida President Kent Fuchs stated there were letters of support for the site and that there is not currently a similar program in Jacksonville.

Chair Cerio asked for a motion to approve the CityLab-Jacksonville as a special purpose center for the University of Florida. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Diaz seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## 8. Regulations

### A. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.002, Self Supporting and Market Tuition Rate Program and Course Offerings

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. England to present the amendment to Board of Governors Regulation 8.002, Self Supporting and Market Tuition Rate Program and Course Offerings.

Dr. England explained that the State University System institutions offer most academic programs as Education & General programs. Those are the typical programs that operate using a mixture of state funding, tuition, and fees. However, universities also offer programs through auxiliary enterprises that do not use state funds. She clarified that these programs are categorized as self-supporting programs. Regulation 8.002 addresses these self-supporting programs and market tuition rate programs. A recent Board staff review identified inconsistent applications of this regulation across the

System.

The proposed draft amendment to the regulation outlines the allowable types of programs and the guidelines regarding the various program sub-categories to avoid potential confusion when developing and implementing new programs. The amendment describes a more comprehensive and appropriate program review process to ensure effective oversight by the Board of Governors and boards of trustees.

Governor Cerio asked how the amendment to the regulation interacts with the state requirements on tuition.

Dr. England responded that the amendment clarifies that universities cannot offer undergraduate programs as self-supporting, and the amendment aligns with Florida Statutes. She explained that universities could offer undergraduate certificate programs as self-supporting. Graduate programs make up most of the self-supporting programs and have greater flexibility regarding tuition. Ms. Vikki Shirley, the Board's General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, confirmed that a supermajority approval by the university's board of trustees is still required to increase undergraduate tuition.

Governor Michael asked if this change would prohibit the market-rate expansion of graduate-level courses.

Dr. England explained there were no proposed changes to that portion of the regulation.

Chair Cerio asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.002, Self Supporting and Market Tuition Rate Program and Course Offerings. Governor Edge moved to approve, Governor Gabadage seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.012,  
Academic Program Termination and Temporary Suspension of New Enrollments

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Cruz to present the proposed amendment to Board of Governors Regulation 8.012, Academic Program Termination and Temporary Suspension of New Enrollments.

Dr. Cruz explained that Board of Governors Regulation 8.012 outlines the process institutions must follow to terminate or suspend new enrollments in an academic program. There are two processes for terminating an academic program, differing by program level. For bachelor's, master's, and specialist programs, the boards of trustees approve the termination, and a notification is sent to the Board office to review before the change is reflected in the Academic Program Degree Inventory. For professional and research doctorate programs, the boards of trustees recommend the program's termination to the Board of Governors for final approval.

Dr. Cruz noted that the proposed amendment would decrease the termination timeline by allowing institutions to terminate doctoral and professional programs using the same process as the bachelor's, master's, and specialist programs.



Chair Cerio asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.012, Academic Program Termination and Temporary Suspension of New Enrollments. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Michael seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Academic and Student Affairs Updates
  - A. SUS Council of Academic Vice Presidents (CAVP)

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

Dr. Edington reported that the Council of Academic Vice Presidents has continued to hold bi-weekly meetings and will begin meeting monthly in October. The Council of Academic Vice Presidents continues to discuss accreditation and each institution's process to make the transition. The council approved a request from the Steering Committee for Innovation and Online Education for each university to help fund the annual innovation summit. He explained the council continues to discuss best practices around civil discourse. The vice presidents also received an update on the experiential learning workgroup. In addition, the council formed a workgroup to provide feedback on the self-supporting and market tuition rate regulation. Finally, the council approved a legislative budget request for the Florida Institute of Oceanography at the University of South Florida.

- B. SUS Council for Student Affairs (CSA)

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

Dr. Cordova reported that the Council for Student Affairs has been working to prepare campuses for new and returning students. The institutions hosted many welcome-back events to energize and connect students to the campuses. Dr. Cordova reported that institutions completed sorority recruitment. Institutions are prepared for programming during National Hazing Prevention Week and will submit their annual hazing incident reports by the October deadline. Institutions are also preparing data requests for the student wellness, alcohol and drug use, and mental health dashboard. The Council for Student Affairs and the Counseling Center Directors continue to collaborate and finalize the four steps outlined in the Steering Committee for Innovation and Online Communication. They are preparing for a post-pandemic world, expanding and sustaining digital services for student outreach and engagement for mental health and substance abuse, and developing a mechanism for SUS staff to share counseling support at other institutions in times of crisis. The Council for Student Affairs has been helping finalize the civil discourse plans and implement recommendations and best practices from the Board of Governors Civil Discourse Final Report. Similarly, the Council for Student Affairs is collaborating with the CAVP on implementing recommendations for the Task Force on Academic and Workforce Alignment.

### C. Florida Student Association (FSA)

Chair Cerio recognized the Chair of the Florida Student Association, Governor Nimna Gabadage, who provided the following updates.

Governor Gabadage stated that the Florida Student Association held a meeting at the University of Florida before the start of the fall semester. He said one issue consistently raised was food insecurity impacting students across the System. A recent national survey showed that 39% of college students experienced food insecurity within the prior 30 days. Governor Gabadage explained that students select low-quality food choices to offset the cost of other expenses. Food insecurity harms mental and physical health outcomes and impacts academic performance. Governor Gabadage noted support services exist, but students do not take advantage of them due to unawareness, stigma, or inability to qualify. He explained that the Florida Student Association wants to improve this issue so students can better focus on their academic success and post-graduation goals.

In addition, the Florida Student Association discussed the examination of the future of online coursework in Florida. The Florida Student Association wants to understand if the new norm of online coursework is conducive to student success and supported by students within the System.

### D. Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS)

Chair Cerio recognized the Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates, Governor Deanna Michael, who provided the following updates.

Governor Michael reported that the chairs of the boards of trustees for the University of Florida and Florida Atlantic University attended faculty senate meetings to answer questions and discuss important issues. Governor Michael noted that a Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University graduate, Dr. April Croxtan, was elected the president of the American Fisheries Society. She is the first African American to hold the position and graduated with a Doctorate in Environmental Science.

Governor Michael said the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates is having a small retreat later in the month at the University of South Florida to complete planning for the rest of the year.

## 10. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

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

---

Tim Cerio, Chair

---

Kirsten Harvey, Director of Student Success & Workforce Alignment