1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Alan Levine convened the meeting on November 9, 2022, at 9:20 a.m. with the following members present: Governors Frost, Gabadage, Michael, Scott, and Stermon. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of Strategic Planning Committee Meeting: Minutes, September 13, 2022

Chair Levine asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on September 13, 2022. Governor Michael moved to approve, Governor Stermon seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 3.006, Accreditation

Chair Levine explained that the next item was the intent to amend Regulation 3.006, Accreditation, based on Senate Bill 7044 from the 2022 Legislative Session. He introduced Dr. Christy England, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to provide an overview of the regulation.

Dr. England explained that Senate Bill 7044 requires each institution to establish and maintain institutional accreditation with an agency or association recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education.

Dr. England reported that the proposed amendment to this regulation removes the references to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges as the accrediting agency for each state university. The amendment aligns the regulation with the new statute.

In addition, Dr. England stated that the amendment clarifies that when an accredited academic program is placed on warning or probation or when a discipline-specific accrediting body revokes the accreditation status, each institution must notify its board of trustees and the Chancellor within ten business days. She noted that this would help ensure that the Board is kept informed about any substantive issues relative to individual academic programs. Dr. England mentioned this is rare but essential for the
Board to know, particularly for programs where discipline-specific accreditation is required to offer a program such as nursing.

Chair Levine asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 3.006, Accreditation. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Gabadage seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Recommendations, Second Round

Next, Chair Levine introduced the agenda item regarding the recommendations for the second round of Linking Industry to Nursing Education, or LINE. As outlined in Senate Bill 2524, the purpose of the LINE Fund is to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and healthcare partners and to meet local, regional, and state workforce demands. Subject to available funds, for every dollar contributed to an institution by a healthcare partner, the fund provides a dollar-for-dollar match to the participating institution for approved proposals. The legislature provided $6 million in LINE Funding for State University System institutions in Fiscal Year 2022-23.

Chair Levine noted that the Board approved eleven requests for LINE funding at the September 13, 2022, meeting, and the approved proposals left $400,044 available for the Board of Governors to disburse. Chair Levine requested that the Board office reopen the application and evaluate the quality of additional requests. The Board office received eleven new applications exceeding the funds available. Board staff worked with the institutions to develop a process for distributing funds.

Chair Levine recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development, to provide an overview of the LINE proposals received since the September meeting.

Ms. Sikes reported that Board staff reviewed all 11 proposals and found each proposal met the minimum requirements for consideration by the Board of Governors. Board staff recommended disbursing the funds to all proposals, resulting in each institution receiving 19% of its requested funds. Ms. Sikes clarified that the universities told Board staff that this reduction would not impact any commitments from partners and that the universities would still be able to use funds to support the initiatives in the proposals.

Ms. Sikes showed that all institutions plan to use the funds for scholarships, and some institutions will also use funds to support faculty salaries and simulation resources.

Chair Levine commented that he was happy to see Florida Atlantic University use LINE funds for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) preparation. He encouraged institutions to stay focused on preparing students for the exam.

Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees Chair Brad Levine explained that the institution had more fund commitments from the private sector than funds available for matching. He suggested that the Board request that the Florida Legislature reinstate
the program since the private sector is willing to contribute dollars to the nursing shortage.

Chair Levine asked for a motion to award the amounts for the LINE fund proposals as presented, with authority to spend the funds in accordance with section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes and Board Regulation 8.008. Governor Michael moved to approve, Governor Frost seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Wage Threshold for Percent of Bachelor's Graduates Employed

Chair Levine introduced the next item, the update on a metric included in the Board of Governors 2025 Strategic Plan. He stated that at the September 13 Strategic Planning Committee meeting, Board staff provided information on alternative wage thresholds for this metric. The committee had a robust discussion around this metric and decided to hold off on making any changes to this metric until the November meeting.

Chair Levine introduced Mr. Troy Miller, Deputy Chief Data Officer, to present the impact of using a $40,000 threshold and changing the calculation to better address students for whom data is regularly unavailable.

Mr. Miller reported the committee spent time at the last meeting discussing the merits of increasing the threshold. Mr. Miller then presented a slide showing the percentage of bachelor's graduates at each institution earning $30,000, $35,000, and $40,000 one year after graduation.

Mr. Miller explained the Board staff recommendation to improve the methodology of this metric by excluding students without wage data from the denominator when calculating the percentage of students earning wages above the threshold. He noted this recommendation is in response to feedback from the institutions. Current data limitations prevent Board staff from collecting information on graduates who start their own businesses, those employed outside of the United States, and those who work in the military or federal government, among others. Mr. Miller showed that this change improved the $40,000 metric outcomes by nearly 11 percentage points.

Chair Levine noted that these changes better reflect student outcomes than the prior threshold and methodology.

Chair Levine asked for a motion to approve a modification to the wage threshold to $40,000 and to change the methodology for calculating the percent of bachelor's graduates employed as presented. Governor Gabadage moved to approve, Governor Frost seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Levine directed Board staff to update the 2025 Strategic Plan accordingly if the full Board approves.
6. Florida Atlantic University Proposed Doctor of Dental Medicine

Chair Levine said the final item on the agenda was the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) proposed Doctor of Dental Medicine and College of Dentistry. On September 14, 2022, the Board of Governors approved the addition of a Doctor of Dental Medicine to the academic program coordination section of Florida Atlantic University’s 2022 Accountability Plan.

On September 19, 2022, FAU’s Board of Trustees approved a legislative budget request for $123 million to support the development of a College of Dentistry and Doctor of Dental Medicine Degree.

Chair Levine recognized the FAU Board of Trustees Chair Levine to provide an update on FAU's plan.

Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees Chair Levine said this plan is an excellent opportunity for the university to continue addressing the growing healthcare needs of Florida and the needs of those underserved. He recognized FAU's Vice Chair, Barbara Feingold, who made a generous philanthropic commitment to the College of Dentistry.

Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees Chair Levine reported that Florida is the third largest state. The population has grown nearly 15% in the last decade, with no indication that population growth is slowing. He explained that Florida has a dentistry workforce shortage. He introduced Dr. Jose Mellado, a periodontist from Miami-Dade County and member of the Florida Board of Dentistry, who has been assisting FAU with the dental school proposal.

Dr. Mellado provided many statistics outlining the need for an additional dental school. He noted that Texas has four public dental schools, California has three, and Florida currently has one public dental school. In addition, the number of dentists retiring and leaving the workforce has increased, and Florida has an older population of dentists. He noted that less than a quarter of dentists take patients with Medicaid insurance. Dr. Mellado showed a map detailing that 54 of Florida’s 67 counties have a shortage of dentists.

Dr. Mellado explained that FAU would start with 45 students in year one of the dental school, increasing by 90 students per cohort with a total enrollment of 350 students after the first few years. He reported that FAU would have 30 faculty in year one and eventually grow to 40 faculty by year five. The university will propose tuition of $37,000 per year, which is lower than that of private schools and will allow students to work in rural areas and be able to pay off debt.

Dr. Mellado then outlined the legislative budget request and provided a timeline for opening the College of Dentistry at FAU.
Chair Levine noted FAU presented an aggressive timeline and encouraged FAU leadership to work with Board staff to meet these goals.

Governor Stermon stated he was impressed with the process and that the dental school is needed in the State University System.

Governor Cerio echoed Governor Stermon's and Chair Levine's sentiments.

Chair Levine noted that the Board of Governors' approval does not compel legislative funding; however, it will clarify the Board's intentions. He explained that the committee is not technically taking action on this topic but suggested the committee demonstrate support by entertaining a motion to support FAU continuing to develop a plan to create a College of Dentistry and a proposal for a Doctor of Dental Medicine.

Governor Stermon motioned to support FAU continuing to develop a plan to create a College of Dentistry and a proposal for a Doctor of Dental Medicine, Governor Gabadage seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Levine concluded the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

Alan Levine, Chair

Kirsten Harvey, Director of Student Success and Workforce Alignment