

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
March 29, 2023

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1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Eric Silagy convened the meeting on March 29, 2023, with the following members present: Governors Cerio, Diaz, Edge, Frost, Gabadage, Haddock, Jones, Lydecker, Levine, Mateer, Michael, Oliva, Scott. A quorum was established.

2. Vice Chair's Report to the Board of Governors and Remarks

Vice Chair Silagy thanked everyone for being there and gave a special thanks to Chair Lawson and President Robinson for hosting the meeting. Silagy called on Lawson and Robinson to speak, and Lawson gave his remarks. Lawson thanked Silagy for the work that the Board has done and how it has aided in making their institution, along with the other universities within the state university system, what it is today. Lawson yielded his time to President Robinson, who thanked the Board and welcomed them to Florida A&M University. President Robinson reported an increase in first-time college applicants to the institution and stated that these new applicants brought a 3.96 average high school GPA. Robinson said they have also increased the US News rankings and reported their position as the top public HBCU for the fourth consecutive year. Robinson then thanked the faculty of FAMU and reported FAMU's rankings and goals for the school's research programs. He stated their project, building a Digital Pipeline for Prosperity, and their FAM-G Network have changed the digital landscape at FAMU. He also said that they broke records in fundraising and goals for this year and that the \$5 million grant they received from the Hewlett Foundation will be allocated towards the FAMU Cyber Policy Institute. Robinson also stated that over \$55 million was awarded to students to help relieve debt. In honor of Women's History Month, he presented Provost Watson, who shared a few highlights of FAMU's academic programs. Thereafter a video played of FAMU student highlights, introducing three students and their stories. Lawson concluded his remarks and passed the floor back to Silagy.

Silagy referenced the previous day's academic and research excellence committee, where Ms. Emily Sikes shared research and development metrics for the system. Silagy stated the Board of Governors' involvement with the legislature during session and gave highlights for the first half of the session and called for continued engagement with the legislature to advocate for the SUS.

3. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Raymond Rodrigues stated that there have been many developments since the board meeting in January. Rodrigues gave a few news report headlines that addressed college enrollment and said that although it is being reported that the decline in enrollment in higher education had seemingly come to an end based on these headlines, the reality is that the data did not match the headlines, as the rate of decline continues. Rodrigues states that the rate of decline has stopped increasing but maintains a steady 0.7%. He says that Florida's enrollment continues to grow and has been an anomaly through this issue. He states that the State University System of Florida has done this by increasing retention rates. In the prior two weeks, the declining enrollment had finally caught up to the number of graduate credential earners. In 2021 through 2022, for the first time, fewer students earned a credential than in the year prior. Rodrigues noted that many corporations in the private sector had adapted their hiring practices because of the decline, with many dropping degree requirements for their new hires.

Along with this, Chancellor Rodrigues stated that the public sector had begun to catch up to the private sector in following this trend. He says that various states have dropped their bachelor's degree requirements to work for the state. He stated that with the universities that are part of the system, they will be making sure that they connect to their communities and businesses to ensure that students and graduates have the skills that those businesses need. Rodrigues moved to the topic of the legislative session, stating that they will reach the halfway point of the 2023 session next week. He said that the Board of Governors is monitoring several bills that would impact higher education. Rodrigues stated that the Board of Governors and state universities are working directly with the legislature and each other to ensure that the legislation being moved will be the best it possibly can, to improve the system. He also briefly discussed the differences in each chamber's budget and that's specifically related to higher education. Florida SUS is number one state university system and has the best cost in the nation.

4. Public Comment

Silagy introduced the public comment section and emphasizes the importance of public dialogue. Rachel then called forward members of the public for comment, with one being read as waving in opposition. Public comments were made. Silagy then concluded the public comment portion of the meeting. Silagy opened the floor for Chancellor Rodrigues to speak. Rodrigues gave an overview of how Bill 7044 was passed, how it affected post-tenure review, and its relationship to the Board of Governors. He stated how post-tenure review has functioned in the past and how it is intended to function in the future.

5. Cyber Security for Universities

Silagy opened the floor to James Grant, the State Chief information officer for the Florida Digital Service, who gave a presentation on cybersecurity. Grant provided

a backdrop of what is happening in the state and local governments and proposals for partnerships for state universities. He stated that the Florida Digital Service and his job rely on institutions' executive backing. He highlighted the accomplishments of his cybersecurity agency and how it has worked with others. He gave an overview of the projects and achievements that his agency has made and other ways of protecting state agency websites. He continued with two more topics: score carding, launching the state cybersecurity center, and how 29 state agencies had voluntarily asked to be part of a standardized risk assessment. He stated that they were in the process of rolling out a \$30 million local grant program that intends to deliver capabilities to governments that have opted in and that 56 counties requested to participate in the state's cybersecurity operation center. He closed with a story about a state agency that came to him and asked for aid in detecting an exploit and how they found it in other state agencies. He then opened the floor for questions. No questions were asked. Silagy concludes this portion and gives the floor to Chancellor Rodrigues for the board evaluation process.

6. Report on Board Self Evaluation

Chancellor Rodrigues began the presentation for the board evaluation. He gave a brief analysis of the results of the Board's survey that addressed the strengths, areas for improvement, and recommendations. For the strengths, all or nearly all respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the following statements:

- Board members' responsibilities are clear.
- The Board is knowledgeable about state and regional higher education needs.
- The Board ensures that its mission and goals are sufficiently responsive to current and future higher education and workforce needs.
- The Board recognizes the positive accomplishments of State University System institutions.
- The Board advocates the State University System's interests to state agencies and legislators.

Areas for improvement, where most members agreed the Board performed well in the below areas but had fewer members in agreement, were as follows:

- Improving knowledge about the mission and purpose of each State University System institution
- Promoting an environment where Board members feel engaged, respected, and empowered to raise issues for discussion.

Board members provided the following recommendations:

- Continued focus on strategic plans.
- Continued focus on excellence and achievement.
- Renewed focus on policy discussions.
- Streamline board meetings.

7. Consent Agenda Items for Approval:

The consent agenda items for approval were taken up next. A board member proposed the removal of regulation 10.003 from the consent agenda. The consent agenda was then moved for approval by Governor Levine and seconded and the motion was carried unanimously except for 10.003. Governor Levine motioned for the Board to adopt the recommendation made by the strategic planning committee to adopt the emergency rule related to the cybersecurity policy. Governor Mateer moved to second. The motion was carried. Governor Michael proposed the removal of 10.003 from the consent agenda to allow for a vote separate from the rest of the consent agenda. There was a motion to pass post-tenure review 10.003 by Governor Mateer and was seconded by Governor Scott. The vote was called, Michael and Gabadage were opposed, and with the remainder of present members voting in favor. The motion passed.

- A. **Board Minutes, November 9th, 2022**
- B. **New Member Orientation, January 24th, 2023**
- C. **Board Minutes, January 25th, 2023**
- D. **Board Minutes, February 22nd, 2023**
- E. **Teleconference, March 16th, 2023**
- F. Public Notice of Approval of Amendments to Board of Governors Regulation, 10.001, Self-insurance Programs
- G. **Strategic Planning Committee Report**
 - i. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 3.0075, Security of Data and Related Information Technology Resources
 - ii. Florida State University's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan
 - iii. Approval of the University of Central Florida's Path to Preeminence, Five-Year Benchmarking Plan
- H. **Audit and Compliance Committee**
 - i. Approval of the Revised Board of Governors Compliance Program Plan, AACC Charter, and OIGC Charter
- I. **Facilities Committee Report**
 - i. Approval of University of Florida - \$29.6M Energy Savings Contract for Holland District
 - ii. Approval of Florida State University – Amendment of Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Request
 - iii. Approval of Amendment of SUS 2023-24 Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request
 - iv. Approval of University of North Florida – Transfer of CITF funding
- J. **Budget and Finance Committee Report**
 - i. Approval of Auxiliary Facilities that have Bond Covenants Requiring Approval of Estimated 2023-2024 Operating Budgets
 - ii. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 9.007 State University System Operating Budgets and Requests
 - iii. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 9.013 Auxiliary Operations
 - iv. Approve Student Success Plan Monitoring Report for Florida Gulf Coast University

- v. Approve Student Success Plan Monitoring Report for Florida Polytechnic University
- vi. Approve Student Success Plan Monitoring Report for New College of Florida
- vii. Approve the amended 2023-2024 operating Legislative Budget Request for the State University System and allow the Chancellor to make technical changes as necessary.
- viii. Public Notice of Approval of Amendments to Board of Governors Regulation 7.002 Tuition and Fee Assessment, Collection, Accounting and Remittance

K. Academic and Student Affairs Committee Report

- i. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.002, Self-supporting and Market Tuition Rate Program and Course Offerings
- ii. Public Notice of Intent to Repeal Board of Governors Regulation 8.015, Academic Program Review
- iii. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.022, Intercollegiate Athletes
- iv. Approval of Specialized Admissions Requests for Undergraduate Programs
- v. Public Notice of Approval of Amendments to Board of Governors Regulation 6.008, Postsecondary College-level Preparatory Testing, Placement, and Instruction for State Universities
- vi. Public Notice of Approval of Amendments to Board of Governors Regulation 6.017, Criteria for Awarding the Baccalaureate Degree
- vii. Public Notice of Approval of Amendments to Board of Governors Regulation 8.005, General Education Core Course Options
- viii. Public Notice of Approval to Adopt Board of Governors Regulation 10.003, Post-Tenure Review

L. Nomination and Governance Committee Report

- i. Consider Appointments of University Trustees

8. Presidential Search Report

A. Florida Atlantic University

Governor Levine stated that the FAU Presidential Search Committee held its kickoff meeting in January and that the consulting firm, AGB Search, facilitated an excellent discussion of the characteristics the committee will look for in the next president of FAU. The University set up a dedicated webpage while AGB conducted eight listening sessions on three campuses to obtain student, faculty, and staff input. Additional listening sessions were added, and another meeting was on April 11th. The information was to be considered and the description of the marketing plan was to be finalized to be submitted to the Board of Trustees at its April 25th meeting.

B. Florida Gulf Coast University

Governor Jordan could not attend to give the report, but President Martin Stepped in to provide an update on Florida Gulf Coast University's presidential search. He states that the presidential search committee met on March 24th. The consultant verified and discussed in general terms the responses from over 80- applicants to select semifinalist candidates for the FGCU Presidential vacancy. After reviewing applicant materials and individually determining who they wanted to see move further and seek further consideration, the search committee met with consultants. They agreed upon a selection of a limited number of semifinalists to be interviewed, which will take place in the following two weeks.

C. New College of Florida

Governor Levine gave the Presidential Search Report for the New College of Florida, stating that it was underway and that the chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair Lamb discussed who would be on the presidential search committee, and that the presidential search committee's members were to be announced later in the week, and that the Board of Trustees would select the chair for the said committee.

9. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Silagy concluded the meeting by stating when the next meeting was to be held and rescheduling the Board of Governors and Trustee Summit. Chair Hosseini then brought up a pay raise for faculty and said that his university was omitted. He stated that there are people leaving universities because of this. He asks for aid in performance funding at the University of Florida. Collins then noted that the University had lost fifteen police officers and continues to lose them to state agencies providing raises. Collins then suggested that the raise should be raised based on merit and should be done to increase the faculty size. Silagy asked for other comments, and Mateer suggested making online programs robust and focusing on dollars and education. Chair Hosseini expressed additional difficulty in making raises possible for university members. Levine addressed the tension about inflation and keeping spending. Silagy gives his final words, and the meeting is adjourned.