SUBJECT: Foreign Influence Prevention in the State University System of Florida

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For Information

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Section 20.055, Florida Statutes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the last Audit and Compliance Committee meeting, Mr. Edge asked the Board of Governors Inspector General and Director of Compliance, Julie Leftheris, to describe how our campuses are implementing the various legislative requirements to prevent undue and inappropriate influence on our universities by select countries of concern.

Inspector General Leftheris has convened a panel of State University System compliance and research experts to discuss and answer questions from Board members related to their universities’ foreign influence prevention strategies and activities on their campuses.

The panelists are:

Rhonda Bishop
Vice President for University Compliance, Ethics, and Risk
University of Central Florida

Ms. Bishop serves as the vice president for compliance, ethics, and risk for the University of Central Florida. In her role as the vice president, Ms. Bishop is responsible for oversight and management of the university’s compliance, ethics, and enterprise risk and insurance management programs and offices. Her career in academics spans over 32 years, including 23 years focused on medical research, compliance, and risk. Ms. Bishop has successfully built both research, compliance, and risk programs from the ground up including meeting the challenges of dealing with high profile investigations, crisis response, and administering an anonymous employee helpline. She is the founding chair of the Florida State University System Compliance and Ethics Consortium and in 2016
was on the cover of Compliance & Ethics Professional magazine featuring an article covering her work in Florida. Ms. Bishop served as the vice president for enterprise risk management, audit and compliance at the University of Louisville before returning to UCF in 2019. Ms. Bishop has provided guidance and assistance to universities experiencing crisis related to complex compliance and ethical failures including high profile financial, academic, and NCAA related matters. Ms. Bishop earned her M.B.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University, is a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Honors Society, and Dean’s Scholar.

Dr. Caroline Fultz-Carver
Chief Compliance Officer
University of South Florida

Dr. Fultz-Carver is a proud USF alumna. She currently serves as the Chief Compliance Officer for the University of South Florida.

She joined USF in 2002 in the Division of Research Integrity & Compliance (DRIC) in the Office of Research & Innovation after several years working in the private sector. She developed and implemented the first human participant research Quality Assurance Program at USF, a program responsible for auditing human and animal subject research. She wrote and oversaw an NIH-funded project to develop and implement a web-based adverse event reporting system, called AERS. She oversaw all DRIC regulatory correspondence and actions with external agencies, such as the Food and Drug Administration and the Office for Human Research Protections. She served as the USF Research Integrity Officer, leading both the USF Research Misconduct Program and the DRIC Quality Assurance Program. She served as the Interim Director for DRIC during which time she led the division to achieve key milestones: accreditation of the USF HRPP and Institutional Review Boards (IRBs); and modernization of DRIC information systems. Under her leadership, USF was the first university in the state university system to achieve AAHRPP accreditation for its HRPP and IRBs. She spearheaded the negotiation and purchase of a $1.2M enterprise-wide information management platform for the following DRIC programs: HRPP/IRB; Institutional Animal Care and Use; Biosafety; and Conflicts of Interest in Research programs.

Dr. Fultz-Carver joined University Audit & Compliance as an Associate Compliance Officer in their Institutional Compliance & Ethics Program. She earned her Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional certification from the Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics, the industry standard certification for compliance and ethics professionals. She led the development and implementation of eDisclose, a web-based information system for Florida Code of Ethics, outside activity, and nepotism disclosure, review, and reporting used by 16K USF employees. She represented USF by serving as non-federal negotiator
on the negotiated rule-making committee for the 2013-2014 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). This 28-member committee was responsible for crafting the VAWA regulations accepted into law by the U.S. Department of Education. She is a former Student Code of Conduct Board member who specialized in hearings involving allegations of sexual harassment, including sexual assault and other forms of gender-based violence.

Prior to joining USF in 2002, Dr. Fultz-Carver served as a Health Sciences Advisory Services consultant for Ernst & Young LLP (EY). During her EY tenure, she supported their Litigation Advisory Services division on their Medicare and Medicaid fraud investigation and expert witness testimony preparation teams. She earned her Series 7 license and joined EY Capital Advisors, an investment banking division partnering emerging mid-cap biopharmaceutical and medical device companies with venture capitalists. She performed disproportionate share analysis for hospitals and hospital systems throughout the eastern seaboard and in the mid-west.

Dr. Fultz-Carver holds the following degrees from the University of South Florida: A Bachelor of Science in Biology; a Master of Science in Medical Science with an emphasis on pathology and laboratory medicine; a Master of Health Administration with an emphasis on health policy and management; and a Ph.D. in Medical Science. Her dissertation focused on the mechanisms influencing migration of hematopoietic progenitor cells between the marrow and blood. She performed her graduate research in the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit of the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center. She has presented at meetings and conferences locally, nationally, and internationally on topics ranging from hematopoietic progenitor migration; keys to successful preparation of HRPPs for AAHRPP accreditation; various research integrity & compliance-related topics ranging from preparation for audits of research records to the responsible conduct of research and the research misconduct investigatory process; and other compliance and ethics-related topics.

Dr. Andrés Gil
Senior Vice President for Research & Economic Development
Florida International University

Andrés G. Gil is the Senior Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Dean of the University Graduate School, and Professor in the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work at FIU. As Senior Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Andrés Gil provides institutional leadership for the university’s research enterprise and has several centers that report directly to him. FIU's Office of Research and Economic Development manages all of FIU’s Pre- and Post-Award operations, technology management and StartUP FIU, as well as the Office of Research Integrity. In his
leadership position he is the President of the FIU Research Foundation. Dr. Gil reports to the Provost and Executive Vice President and is a member of the President’s Executive Committee. Under his leadership FIU has grown its research enterprise in terms of research funding, the expansion of research facilities and progression in national rankings from Carnegie R2 to R1. He led the creation of StartUP FIU and the acquisition of the Center for Translational Science (CTS) in Port St. Lucie, Florida (formerly the Torrey Pines Institute for Biomolecular Science), the establishment of FIU’s Wall of Wind research facility (a NSF NHERI Experimental Facility) and the acquisition of the National Forensic Science Technology Center in Tampa.

Dr. Gil earned his B.A. in Sociology from Florida International University, and a Ph.D. in medical sociology from the University of Miami. His research has been funded by the NIH, NSF and foundations in areas pertaining to health disparities and adolescent substance abuse and mental health.

Dr. Gil has had faculty positions in interdisciplinary academic units, including the School of Family Studies at the University of Connecticut, and the School of Public Health at UC Berkeley, as well as the Western Consortium for Public Health. His areas of research include the etiology of adolescent substance abuse and mental health, and the development and testing of prevention and treatment interventions for adolescent substance abuse. His research has appeared in top-tiered journals, including the American Journal of Public Health, General Archives on Psychiatry, and Addiction. He has been a member of several Initial Review Groups for NIH, including for the Center for Scientific Review, NIMH, NIAAA, and SAMHSA. He has also been a member of the Advisory Council for NIAAA.

In research administration, Dr. Gil has held leadership positions in various organizations, including member of the board of directors for the National Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention (LCAT), member of Board of Trustees for Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA), chair of the Development & Relations Committee for SURA, member of Executive Committee for the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities’ Council on Research (COR), Co-Chair, Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)’s HBCU/MEI Steering Committee Council, member of the GRE Board of Directors, and Vice-Chair of the Vice Presidents for Research of the State University System of Florida—Florida Board of Governors. Prior to his academic positions, he held medical social work positions in pediatric oncology, child development, and psychiatric crisis. He is a former member of the U.S. Marine Corps, with the rank of Sergeant.
Dr. David Norton  
Vice President for Research  
University of Florida

Dr. David P. Norton is the Vice President for Research at the University of Florida. Previously, Dr. Norton served as Associate Dean for Research in the College of Engineering and Professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

Dr. Norton has 34 years of experience in science and technology research, having served 11 years as a Research Scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory prior to joining the University of Florida as a faculty member in 2000.

Over his career at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Florida, Dr. Norton has published over 350 refereed journal articles with over 11,000 citations. He is an inventor on 10 patents and has presented over 70 invited presentations at national and international conferences. Dr. Norton is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, the American Vacuum Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Norton holds Bachelor of Science and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Louisiana State University.

Supporting Documentation Included:  
PowerPoint Presentation

Facilitators/Presenters:  
Ms. Julie Leftheris