

June 30, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Dr. Michele Hawkins  
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Florida Atlantic University

FROM: Dr. Christy England  
Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

SUBJECT: Doctor of Dental Medicine, CIP 51.0401

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The Board of Governors' office has reviewed the quarterly implementation update provided by Florida Atlantic University (FAU) for the proposed Doctor of Dental Medicine, CIP 51.0401. For each condition below, please confirm the accuracy of the summarized information in each bulleted list and respond to any clarifying questions.

**Condition: Secure sufficient funding from the state legislature and other sources to develop and implement the program.**

- Florida Atlantic University has already secured funding based on two legislative budget requests, including \$10 million for operational resource expenses and \$30 million in initial capital outlay funding to construct the College of Dentistry facility.
- Funding for operational funds includes a recurring amount of \$5 million and a nonrecurring amount of \$5 million. According to FAU's update, these funds will be used to establish the College of Dentistry at FAU and hire the dean and administrative faculty.

In the proposal approved by the Board of Governors, FAU indicated that the anticipated total program cost is \$116,556,750 in year one. Since the funding provided by the 2023 Legislature was less than the required amount, please describe plans to secure additional funds from other sources and anticipated timelines for obtaining this funding.

**Condition: Hire a sufficient number of qualified faculty to develop and implement the program.**

- Dental professionals have already contacted FAU, expressing interest in faculty positions, and FAU has developed a database to monitor and track these professionals' level of interest and geographic location.
- Future reports will include detailed strategies to attract premier candidates.
- Once funding has been secured, FAU plans to recruit and hire deans and other administrative staff.

No additional information is required at this time.

**Condition: Approve a curriculum with appropriate and specific learning outcomes and industry-driven competencies consistent with the Commission on Dental Accreditation requirements.**

- Florida Atlantic University has set a goal of placing all dental students in health centers and other community areas for their entire four-year curriculum.
- The university is currently developing agreements with the Caridad Center, Brumback Clinics, Hartland Rural Health Network, and the Florida Health Association to provide clinical rotation opportunities for students.
- Clinical rotation sites have been secured in Palm Beach County.
- Florida Atlantic University is also working with leading dental colleges in the country, including the University of Washington, to design a community-facing model for the program.
- The curriculum will cover Payor systems, including Medicaid. Since Medicaid is commonly used to pay for dental treatment in underserved communities, the goal is to provide information to encourage more dentists to participate in Medicaid and increase dental care access for rural children.
- Florida Atlantic University has engaged in discussions with System institutions on collaborative efforts to provide hands-on volunteering and practice opportunities for pre dental students, hold joint seminars and workshops, and recruit students from underserved areas. The institution plans to establish and finalize memorandums of understanding with the University of North Florida, the University of West Florida, the University of Central Florida, and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

No additional information is required at this time.

**Condition: Obtain specialized accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation for the Doctor of Dental Medicine prior to implementing the program.**

- Florida Atlantic University will conduct all planning activities simultaneously with other on-campus activities, including the quest to obtain specialized accreditation.

Please specify what, if any, steps have been taken toward obtaining specialized accreditation since the Board of Governors' conditional approval of the program at the Board meeting held on January 25, 2023.

**Condition: Include in the mission statement that the program's primary objective is to serve Florida's rural and underserved communities and that the program has been established for this purpose.**

- Florida Atlantic University has a mission to ensure the equitable distribution of dental practitioners in rural and underserved areas.

Please clarify whether the institution has included the primary objective and purpose of the program in its mission statement, as indicated in the condition above. If not, please provide an anticipated timeline for doing so.

Please submit your response by **July 17, 2023**. Should you have questions, please contact Dr. Lynn Nelson at (850) 245-0060 or [Lynn.Nelson@flbog.edu](mailto:Lynn.Nelson@flbog.edu).

CE/ms

c: Dr. Russ Ivy  
Dr. Lynn Nelson  
Mr. Michael Stowell



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**Below is the response from Dr. Joel Berg to BOG Staff queries.  
[BOG staff note: Submitted 7/19/23]**

**Funding Response:**

In July 2023 FAU submitted (pending Board of Trustees approval) its Legislative Budget Requests (LBR) for the 2024 Legislative Session. Again, FAU is submitting its "Establishing a College of Dentistry at FAU" LBR, which is a continuation and update of our 2023 LBR. The 2024 LBR funding request has been updated (see attachment) to reflect the amount of operational and capital funding received during the 2023 Session. Given the scope and cost of establishing a College of Dentistry, the university understood that this would be a multiyear endeavor. In turn, the university devised a multiyear funding and implementation strategy. We will work to secure the necessary state support as we ramp-up operations.

Planned Action Steps - The FAU Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 and will approve the university's LBRs for the 2024 Legislative Session. The university will again work with its champions and leadership in the Legislature to secure the additional funding needed to continue on our journey of establishing Florida's second public college of dentistry. The 2024 Legislative Session is scheduled to conclude on Friday, March 8, 2024. Once the Governor has reviewed and approved the budget, the university will know how much additional funding has been secured and how much funding we will need to seek during the 2025 Legislative Session.

In addition to state funding, Florida Atlantic University has an established history of outstanding community support through stewardship. Accordingly, we are building a strategy for fundraising that we will quickly execute. Possible avenues for fundraising are offered as follows:

**Major Gifts Campaign (Facility):**

- Launch a major gifts campaign targeting high-net-worth individuals, prominent dental professionals, and foundations.
  - Identify potential major donors through research and networking, and develop personalized cultivation strategies to secure substantial contributions.
1. Corporate Partnerships:
    - Forge strategic partnerships with dental industry leaders and corporations to support research, clinical advancements, and student scholarships.
    - Offer opportunities for corporate sponsorships and collaborative research projects.

2. Community Outreach:
  - Host dental health fairs, educational workshops, and oral hygiene programs to engage with the local community and raise awareness about oral health.
  - Seek support from community leaders, local businesses, and organizations to sponsor or participate in these events.
3. Named Endowments and Scholarships:
  - Establish named endowments and scholarships to attract philanthropic individuals interested in supporting dental education and student success.
  - Promote these opportunities to donors, emphasizing the lasting impact of their support on future generations of dental professionals.
4. Online Fundraising:
  - Utilize digital platforms and crowdfunding websites to launch online fundraising campaigns that reach a broader audience.
  - Create compelling and shareable content that highlights the college's achievements and showcases the impact of donor contributions.
5. Grants and Foundations:
  - Research and apply for grants from dental associations, foundations, and government agencies that align with the college's research and educational initiatives.
  - Develop persuasive grant proposals that emphasize the college's expertise and potential for impact.
6. Donor Recognition and Stewardship:
  - Establish a comprehensive donor recognition program to express gratitude to supporters at various giving levels.
  - Regularly update donors on the college's progress and achievements through impact reports and personalized communication.

### **Mission Statement Response:**

Our revised mission is to empower and serve rural communities by providing exceptional dental education, fostering compassionate care, and addressing the critical need for additional dentists in underserved areas. We are committed to cultivating a supportive and inclusive learning environment that nurtures the next generation of highly skilled dental professionals, who are dedicated to improving oral health outcomes and overall well-being in rural populations.

Our college is dedicated to equipping students with the knowledge, clinical skills, and ethical values necessary to excel as competent dentists in challenging rural settings. We emphasize a comprehensive education that integrates the latest advancements in dental science, technology, and evidence-based practice, ensuring that our graduates are well-prepared to meet the unique oral health needs of rural communities.

Through strategic partnerships with local clinics, community organizations, and rural healthcare providers, we actively engage with underserved populations to provide accessible dental care, oral health education, and preventive services. We strive to enhance oral health literacy and promote disease prevention, understanding that prevention is key to improving overall health outcomes and reducing oral health disparities in rural areas.

By actively recruiting and supporting students from rural backgrounds and fostering a deep understanding of the challenges faced by rural communities, we aim to create a diverse and culturally competent dental workforce that is uniquely positioned to address the oral healthcare needs of underserved populations. We provide mentorship, networking opportunities, and financial assistance to encourage graduates to return to rural communities and establish dental practices, ensuring long-term access to high-quality oral healthcare services.

At the FAU College of Dentistry, we are dedicated to advancing research and innovation in rural oral health, collaborating with local communities, and partnering with other healthcare professionals to promote interdisciplinary approaches to comprehensive healthcare. We are committed to being a catalyst for positive change, working tirelessly to improve oral health outcomes, and ultimately transforming lives in rural communities through our passion for dentistry.

Together, we are building a future where every individual in rural areas has access to exceptional oral healthcare, empowering them to lead healthier and happier lives. We invite students, faculty, staff, and community partners to join us on this journey towards a brighter and healthier future for rural communities.

### **Specialized Accreditation Response:**

Please specify what, if any, steps have been taken toward obtaining specialized accreditation since the Board of Governors' conditional approval of the program at the Board meeting held on January 25, 2023.

Interim Provost Russ Ivy has formally initiated the request for CODA application, as required to start the process for accreditation.

Applying for accreditation as an emerging College of Dentistry (by CODA definition "has not enrolled and graduated at least one class of students/residents/fellows and does not have students/residents/fellows enrolled in each year of the program"), FAU's program is delineated Commission as not fully operational. The accreditation classification granted by the Commission on Dental Accreditation to programs which are not fully operational is "initial accreditation."

Initial accreditation provides evidence to educational institutions, licensing bodies, government or other granting agencies that, at the time of initial evaluation(s), the developing education program has the potential for meeting the standards set forth in the requirements for an accredited educational program for the specific occupational area. The classification "initial accreditation" is granted based upon one or more site evaluation visit(s).

This application process is identical to the reaccreditation (self-study) document, with the exception that it is based on projection and aspirational, with documented evidence of capacity to achieve.

We have engaged an individual to work on behalf of the University with extensive prior experience as a Dean of an existing preeminent College of Dentistry. Additionally, we have an internal finance and operations administrator who was already on staff also with prior leadership experience at a different highly ranked College of Dentistry.

Both are well versed with the CODA accreditation process and have completed self-studies as part of the reaccreditation in their prior roles. These two individuals have already begun both the assessment process of existing resources and identification of needed resources—spanning facilities, personnel, academic curriculum, research, and clinical practice. Accordingly, we are outlining the specific work that needs to be completed, compiling a project master file to outline the essential steps and the appropriate timeline/sequence to ensure milestones will be achieved as appropriate.

They have already begun assembling a team (internally and externally) to provide critical focus on securing accreditation. This group consists of healthcare leaders with the FAU College of Medicine (shared curriculum, facilities), finance team members (pro-forma and budgets), information technology experts (facility, web, and program), a project manager (application management and compliance), and an administrative fellow (supports the team) dedicated to this effort, along with consultants with robust subject matter expertise.

The same team will address the substantially less cumbersome requirements for Association American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) process. Nearly all of the information required for the AADSAS will be covered through the CODA application and accreditation process. With the remaining portion to be covered largely related to the operational and administrative management of the application/applicants process.