

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Strategic Planning Committee
September 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Programs of Strategic Emphasis: 2023 Update

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

An essential component of the Board of Governors' 2025 Strategic Plan is the Programs of Strategic Emphasis list. Programs of Strategic Emphasis are one of several tools for aligning the degree production goals of the State University System with the economic and workforce needs of Florida and are also included in the Performance Based Funding Model. Every few years, Board staff, in collaboration with key stakeholders, review the list of programs and the underlying methodology used to generate the list to ensure alignment with the workforce needs of Florida and the strategic goals of the Board. The Programs of Strategic Emphasis were reviewed and updated in 2019 to better align with workforce needs and again in 2020 to incorporate federal CIP code updates that went into effect for the 2021-22 Academic Year. The currently approved list includes 871 possible academic programs at each of the three degree levels (bachelor's, master's, and doctoral), of which 155 are active in the System at the baccalaureate level, 182 are active at the master's level, and 112 are active at the doctoral level.

In January 2023, the Board provided guidance that a more targeted and workforce-driven list would be appropriate for the Programs of Strategic Emphasis. Board staff developed an updated methodology to better address Florida's workforce needs, incorporating feedback from key stakeholders. This updated methodology considers the supply of graduates across all Florida sectors of education and matches it to labor market demand and wage information across all occupations in Florida.

Board staff provided an update to the committee at its June 21 meeting regarding the progress of the project. Since that time, staff have been collecting and assessing feedback from the institutions and other stakeholders to help refine the proposed methodology and programs on the draft list.

Board staff requested feedback from the institutions on the proposed list and methodology on June 9, 2023. The feedback was due on July 31, 2023. During this process, institutions were afforded the opportunity to recommend changes to the draft list and methodology and to provide data relevant to any recommended program

additions. Consistent with the presentation in June, the data sources that could be used were letters of support from employers, supplemental regional workforce data documenting unfilled job openings, updated occupational linkages to academic programs, pathways between degree levels, and data on new and emerging workforce needs. Board staff met with academic program staff from all 12 state universities on July 6, 2023 to review this process and answer any questions.

Board staff also met with a number of external stakeholders to get feedback on the draft list, including representatives from the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Council of 100, CareerSource Florida, the Florida Department of Education, and the Florida Department of Commerce. These groups were supportive of the proposed methodology and list.

Board staff will continue working to develop a final proposed program list to bring to the Board in November for approval. Ms. Emily Sikes, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives & Economic Development, will provide an update regarding the proposed methodology and the proposed list of 2023 Programs of Strategic Emphasis.

Supporting Documentation Included:

None

Facilitators/Presenters:

Ms. Emily Sikes