

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
INNOVATION AND ONLINE COMMITTEE
June 22, 2023

*Video or Audio Archives of the meetings of the Board of Governors and its
Committees are accessible at www.flbog.edu*

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Edward Haddock convened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. on June 22, 2023, with the following members present: Jack Hitchcock, Charles Lydecker, Craig Mateer, and Deanna Michael. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

Governor Mateer moved that the Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 22, 2023. Governor Michael seconded the motion, and the members concurred.

3. 2022 Annual Report for Online Education

Chair Haddock introduced Dr. Jon Rogers, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Online Education, to provide an overview of the 2022 Annual Report for Online Education. Dr. Rogers said that the Annual Report follows the themes of the 2025 Strategic Plan for Online Education, Access, Quality, and Affordability, and focuses on the participation and performance of SUS online students during the 2021-22 year.

In a significant finding, staff was able to review the past three years of data: the 2019 pre-COVID pandemic year, the 2020 COVID year, and the 2021 post-pandemic year. Dr. Rogers said that these data show that in the 2021 post-pandemic year, online participation was significantly above the pre-COVID year enrollments which supports the view that, following the COVID Pandemic, online classes remain an attractive option for both distance education students and campus-based students.

In other findings, Florida continues to be a national leader in distance education and ranks 4th nationally in online program enrollments and participation. Importantly, the State University System continues to be recognized by the US News and World Report in its annual rankings of the best online bachelor's degree programs. This year, UF Online has been recognized as the # 1 online bachelor's program for the third straight year. Governor Alan Levine recognized the impact of the UF Online Pathway to Campus Enrollment (PaCE) program and suggested that this program could be implemented at other universities. The Report shows that UCF is ranked # 8; UNF is ranked # 39; UWF is ranked #42; FIU is ranked # 60; and FAU is ranked # 65.

Dr. Rogers explained that, in an attempt to personalize this year's Annual Report, the report includes information on the Campus President's Award for outstanding online

teaching, the identification of outstanding online students, and highlights of innovative programming and support services for online students.

In a discussion of quality indices, Dr. Rogers said that 2021-22 data showed that students' grades in online classes continue to be comparable to those in campus-based, classroom courses. Additionally, data on degree completion confirm that taking online classes promotes the reduction of the average time-to-degree for students. A review of Retention data found that students who take either a mix of online classes or all online classes are more likely to be enrolled the following year than students with no online classes.

In a summary of the Annual Report, Dr. Rogers stated that distance education programs: (1) provide students with options for completing their university education in a timely manner; (2) allow individuals with family, work, or personal obligations to complete their education; and (3) enable on-campus students to accelerate the completion of their degree program.

Following committee discussion, Chair Haddock called for a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Report for Online Education. Governor Michael moved that the Committee approve the report, Governor Lydecker seconded the motion, and the members concurred.

4. Recognition of an Outstanding Online Student

Chair Haddock reported that the Committee continues to recognize the accomplishments of individual online students at our universities and offered a brief video to introduce Mrs. Haley Hines-Gaal, an online student in the USF Online Master of Social Work program.

Following the video, Chair Haddock welcomed Mrs. Hines-Gaal to the meeting. Mrs. Hines-Gaal described her background and the challenges of losing her parents and living in foster care during her early years. She said that the social workers who provided care and support for her made a significant impact on her growth and development and led to her decision to seek and achieve a professional degree and pursue a career in social work. Mrs. Hines-Gaal expressed appreciation to the USF Online faculty and staff for their academic preparation, guidance, and support which enabled her to complete the MSW program.

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, Chair Haddock recognized University of Florida Provost Dr. Joe Glover who is stepping down after 15 years as UF Provost. Chair Haddock acknowledged that Dr Glover served as Chair of the Online Steering Committee and provided valuable information and support to the Committee.

Following concluding remarks, Chair Haddock adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Edward Haddock, Chair

Jon Rogers, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice Chancellor