1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Vice Chair Edge convened the meeting on September 8, 2023, at 2:44 p.m. with the following members present: Governors Edge, Frost, Hitchcock, Phalin, and Oliva. A quorum was established.

2. Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) 2023-24 Proposals

Vice Chair Edge introduced the next item on the agenda, the 2023-2024 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) proposals from universities. During the 2023 session, the legislature allocated six million dollars to the state university system for the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) fund for fiscal year 2023-2024. Vice Chair Edge explained that the fund is intended to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and healthcare partners, aiming to address workforce needs in the state. Subject to available funds, for every dollar a healthcare partner contributes to an institution, the fund shall provide a dollar-for-dollar match to the participating institution for approved proposals.

Vice Chair Edge informed the committee that the Board of Governors is responsible for administering the LINE Fund for the State University System, including evaluating and approving proposals to participate in the program. He said the Board office sent out a request for proposals on May 22, 2023.

Vice Chair Edge then recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development, to provide an overview of the LINE proposals. Ms. Sikes presented an overview of the LINE Fund and the 22 proposals made by eight state universities. She explained the eligibility requirements for the funds under Section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes and Board of Governors Regulation 8.008. The funds may be used for scholarships, recruitment of additional faculty, equipment, and simulation centers to advance the state’s high-quality nursing education programs. Universities are not permitted to use the funds to construct new buildings. Ms. Sikes noted that all 22 proposals met the criteria to participate in the program and were being recommended for funding. Ms. Sikes then explained that the proposals totaled over 4.3 million dollars and that if the board approves all 22 proposals, over 8.6 million dollars in additional funding would be available for institutions to use to support nursing programs. Ms. Sikes noted that approving the 22 proposals would leave 1.7 million dollars of state matching funds available for a second round of proposals to be considered at the
November board meeting. She then gave an overview of how the individual institutions intend to use the funds and referenced the complete proposals in the meeting materials.

Vice Chair Edge asked for a motion to approve the university proposals for the 2023-24 LINE funds. Governor Hitchcock moved to approve, Governor Frost seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Governor Edge concluded the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

Mariela Ramirez Rodriguez, Academic and Student Affairs Student Intern

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Aubrey Edge, Vice Chair