

MINUTES  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA  
November 9, 2023

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1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Tim Cerio convened the meeting at 8:03 a.m. with the following Governors present: Governors Diaz, Edge, Frost, Haddock, Hitchcock, and Phalin. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of the September 8, 2023, Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Chair Cerio asked for a motion to approve the September 8, 2023, committee meeting minutes. Governor Phalin moved to approve, Governor Hitchcock seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Articulation Coordinating Committee's Recommendation for the General Education Core Course List

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Lynn Nelson, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to provide an overview of the Articulation Coordinating Committee's (ACC) recommendation for the general education core course list.

Dr. Nelson stated that Senate Bill 266 was signed into law on May 15, 2023, and that the law modified section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, to require faculty committees appointed by the chair of the State Board of Education and the chair of the Board of Governors, or their designee, to review and recommend changes to the General Education Core Course options. The first review must be completed by July 1, 2024, and then once every four years. Following the review, any recommended changes by the faculty discipline committees to the core course options must be considered for approval by the ACC, the State Board of Education, and the Board of Governors.

Dr. Nelson reported that to implement the law, both boards appointed faculty to committees to review the current general education core courses. The five committees aligned with the general education core subjects of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. These committees convened multiple times from August through October, and the committees met face-to-face in St. Petersburg on September 14, 2023, to review the core course options and draft recommendations for changes. The recommendations from the faculty committees were then published for public comment. The faculty committees reconvened on

October 4, 2023, to review the public comment and to finalize recommendations. One committee convened once more on October 13, 2023, to review and propose for consideration an additional core course for social sciences. The Articulation Coordinating Committee approved the faculty-recommended list of general education core courses on October 13, 2023.

Dr. Nelson remarked that the recommended general education core course list included three additional options. Two courses were recommended to be added to the core for natural sciences, including Introduction to Geology and Introduction to Oceanography. One course, Introductory Survey to 1877, was recommended to be added as a core course option in the social sciences. Dr. Nelson stated that the general core course options are ready for the Board of Governors to consider for approval.

Governor Phalin thanked the various committees and praised their work. She commented that faculty were happy with the expansion of choices for general education courses.

Chair Cerio asked for a motion to approve the Articulation Coordinating Committee's recommendations for the general core course list. Governor Diaz moved to approve the recommended list with the revision to remove the Principles of Sociology as a core course. Governor Diaz explained that the revision would reduce the number of social science courses to six, with three potentially being options to meet civic literacy requirements.

Chair Cerio asked if there were any questions about Governor Diaz's proposed amendment to the policy.

Governor Phalin asked for clarification as to whether Governor Diaz wanted to remove Principles of Sociology as a core course and replace it with Introductory Survey to 1877. Governor Diaz stated that was correct. Governor Phalin then stated that the list should be approved as it was given to the board. Governor Phalin stated that she was not in favor of removing the sociology course from the list.

Governor Frost stated that she agreed with Governor Phalin's comment.

Governor Cerio asked if Governor Diaz's proposal was for compliance with state law. Governor Diaz responded that students must demonstrate civic literacy and the ability to synthesize information for civic decision-making. He stated that his proposal would help students meet that requirement.

Governor Cerio asked if Principles in Sociology would be removed entirely or as a core course. Governor Diaz stated that it would still be available for students but not as a core course.

Chair Cerio then asked for a second on the motion to approve the Articulation Coordinating Committee's recommendation for the general education core course list,

with Governor Diaz's amendment to remove Principles of Sociology as a core course. Governor Edge seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

#### 4. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.005, General Education Core Course Options

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an overview of the proposed amendment to Board of Governors Regulation 8.005, General Education Core Course Options.

Dr. Nelson explained that the proposed revision to Regulation 8.005, General Education Core Course Options, aligns the regulation with recent legislative changes. She noted that the proposed amendment included revising the general education core course options to align with the committee's newly approved list. The proposed amendment also specified that the universities must follow the course descriptions for the core general education options included in the Statewide Course Numbering System. Dr. Nelson reported that the proposed amendment clarified that a state university may not require a student to complete an additional course to meet a subject area requirement that was completed by the student with a course that has since been removed from the general education core course list and this provision aligns with statute.

Dr. Nelson indicated that the revised statute also included new university reporting requirements. The law requires that university boards of trustees and presidents annually review and approve general education course requirements at a public meeting. She said the proposed amendment includes the annual review and approval of a general education course list, which is then required to be approved by the Board of Governors beginning annually in December of 2024. Dr. Nelson explained that because of these proposed changes, Board staff recommended changing the name of the regulation from "General Education Core Course Options" to "General Education Course Options."

Governor Phalin reiterated her concern related to section 1007.55, Florida Statutes.

Chair Cerio asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.005, General Core Course Options. Governor Diaz moved to approve, with the revision to remove the Principles of Sociology as a core course to align with the list approved in the prior motion.

Governor Phalin reiterated concerns regarding the revision of the recommendations given by faculty experts. She stated that the change could significantly impact student enrollment in the course being removed.

Governor Hitchcock agreed with Governor Phalin. He also agreed that the Introductory Survey to 1877 course would promote civic engagement and education, but he did not understand how removing Principles of Sociology would promote the same goal.

Chair Cerio asked for a second on the motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.005, General Core Course Options, with Governor Diaz's amendment to remove Principles of Sociology as a core course. Governor Edge seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

## 5. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.006, Accelerated Mechanisms

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an overview of the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.006, Accelerated Mechanisms.

Dr. Nelson explained that the proposed amendment to Regulation 6.006, Acceleration Mechanisms, recognizes the Credit or Clock Hour for Law Enforcement Experience Equivalency List. This list includes the postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit that must be awarded for law enforcement training and experience, which was approved by the Board at its August 30th, 2023, meeting.

Dr. Nelson explained that the amendment also includes a provision implementing HB 1537 from the 2023 legislative session. The new law requires state universities and Florida colleges to develop advanced courses that align with general education core courses for students in secondary education. These advanced courses would have an examination option for postsecondary credit. To implement this change, Dr. Nelson reported that Board staff propose deleting the specific list of examinations from the regulation and reference the Articulation Coordinating Committee Credit-by-Exam Guidelines to accommodate these new advanced courses as they are developed. The guidelines are annually approved by the Board of Governors.

Chair Cerio asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.006, Accelerated Mechanisms. Governor Haddock moved to approve, Governor Hitchcock seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## 6. Articulation Coordinating Committee's Policy on the Evaluation and Awarding of Postsecondary Credit for Military Combat Medics

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Nelson to provide an overview of the Articulation Coordinating Committee's Policy on the Evaluation and Awarding of Postsecondary Credit for Military Combat Medics.

Dr. Nelson explained that during the 2023 Legislative Session, the legislature passed Senate Bill 274, which was signed into law in May. The law expands opportunities for eligible current and former military combat medics to earn postsecondary credit or clock hours toward accredited nursing education programs. The new law allows for postsecondary credit or clock hours to be awarded for college-level training and education acquired while serving as a combat medic. This credit will be awarded consistently across all Florida public postsecondary educational institutions.

Dr. Nelson stated that a similar bill was signed into law in 2020, which required a similar process and review for military experience or training. That process, recommended by the Postsecondary Education for Certain Military Personnel Work Group, was approved by the Board of Governors at the January 2021 meeting. This newly proposed policy mirrors the policy that was previously approved.

Dr. Nelson clarified that the new law directs the ACC to develop a process for awarding postsecondary credit or career education clock hours for the Pathway for Military Combat Medics. She said the workgroup consisted of thirteen members, including four representatives from SUS institutions, four representatives from the Florida College System, two from district career centers, two from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and one from the Articulation Coordinating Committee. The workgroup produced a document outlining a recommended policy for evaluating and awarding postsecondary credit for military combat medic experience, which was included in the committee meeting materials. The document was presented to the ACC on October 13, 2023, and to the State Board of Education on October 18, 2023.

Dr. Nelson commented that if the Board approves the recommended policy for evaluating and awarding postsecondary credit for military combat medics, the workgroup will begin reviewing the courses in the Statewide Course Numbering System and the ACE Combat Medic Courses to identify equivalencies. She added that in May 2024, an equivalency list will be developed and then considered by the ACC, the State Board of Education, and the Board of Governors for approval next June.

Chair Cerio asked for a motion to approve the Articulation Coordinating Committee's Policy on the Evaluation and Awarding of Postsecondary Credit for Military Combat Medics. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Diaz seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Academic and Student Affairs Updates  
A. SUS Council of Academic Vice Presidents

Chair Cerio recognized Dr. Michael Johnson to provide an update on the activities of the Council of Academic Vice Presidents.

Dr. Johnson indicated that the Council of Academic Vice Presidents had concentrated their work on the processes and procedures at the various institutions regarding post-tenure review as it relates to academic matters in compliance with Senate Bill 266. He also thanked the Board of Governors staff for working closely with the Council of Academic Vice Presidents on the Programs of Strategic Emphasis update.

B. SUS Council for Student Affairs

Chair Cerio recognized the Council for Student Affairs Vice Chair, Dr. Mitch Cordova, to provide an update on Council for Student Affairs activities.

Dr. Cordova stated that the Council for Student Affairs worked on critical initiatives to prepare campuses for the fall semester over the summer. He said that in the first three weeks, the institutions had successfully executed welcome-back events that have energized students across all campuses. He articulated that the fall semester has been a success for the institutions, and many signature events achieved record attendance.

Dr. Cordova emphasized that these events are critical in connecting first-year students to campus and helping them establish new and meaningful relationships while re-engaging returning students. The offices of student involvement continue to host and engage in many events throughout the fall term.

Dr. Cordova reported that the 12 institutions remain committed to sharing systemwide information. He noted that the institutions continue to support National Hazing Preventing Week each fall term, which took place between September 25 and September 29, 2023. National Hazing Prevention Week continues to be an opportunity to implement programs and activities to help students understand the negative consequences of hazing. As required by Regulation 6.021, the Council for Student Affairs reports on hazing incidents that occur each academic year. Dr. Cordova said that for the 2022-2023 academic year, only seven incidents happened across the twelve campuses. These incidents found seven organizations and one student responsible. The number of incidents and students found responsible decreased by 59% and 89%, respectively, compared to the 2021-2022 academic year.

Dr. Cordova indicated that the Council for Student Affairs is also working to expand and improve the mental health and primary care services provided to students. The result of the work will ultimately shape the agenda for the biannual Health and Wellness Summit, which will take place on June 24, 2024, on the University of Central Florida campus.

### C. Florida Student Association

Chair Cerio recognized Governor Hitchcock to provide an update on the activities of the Florida Student Association.

Governor Hitchcock explained that the Florida Student Association held its monthly meeting preceding the State University System Trustee Summit, and most student body presidents were in attendance.

Governor Hitchcock shared that Florida State University's student government adopted a Student Advancement Committee with the idea that students can take a position on advancement to further the university's goals. Governor Hitchcock explained that many other universities are taking the same action because of the Florida Student Association. The Florida Student Association has also created committees to unite policy efforts from across the state, which will soon fold in vice presidents to help develop a sense of collaboration amongst the universities.

Governor Hitchcock reported that the Florida Student Association also elected a Chief of Staff, Elijah Hooks, who was the former student government attorney general of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. He noted that the association is also making efforts to travel to Washington, D.C., to lobby on behalf of the 400,000 students of the State University System.

Chair Cerio commented that free speech and civil discourse for students have been important topics for the Board. He stated that the Board supports Governor Hitchcock and all students in expressing themselves civilly and in a way that fosters free speech without intimidation.

#### D. Advisory Council of Faculty Senates

Chair Cerio recognized Governor Phalin to provide an update on the activities of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates.

Governor Phalin thanked the Governors for their engagement with the faculty and participation in the faculty breakfast. Governor Phalin reiterated her concern regarding the changes to the general education core courses. She said that the faculty committee took months and conducted a very considered process involving subject matter experts to recommend the list for general education courses. Governor Phalin indicated that the committee's actions could potentially have a significant impact on enrollment in certain courses and on resource allocations. Governor Phalin encouraged the committee to consider input from faculty and provosts moving forward.

Chair Cerio stated that he appreciated Governor Phalin's comments and agreed that the provost's insights should be considered. However, he said he believed the Board understood the ramifications of the recently voted-on general education core courses.

#### 8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Cerio adjourned the meeting at 8:36 a.m.

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Tim Cerio, Chair

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Mariela Ramirez Rodriguez  
Student Intern, Academic and Student Affairs