

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
VIA TELECONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

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1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Tim Cerio convened the meeting on September 20, 2023 at 10:22 a.m., with the following Governors present: Governors Edge, Diaz, Frost, Haddock, Hitchcock, and Phalin. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of the June 21, 2023, Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Chair Cerio asked for a motion to approve the June 21, 2023, committee meeting minutes. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Hitchcock seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

3. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 2.003, Equity and Access

Chair Cerio proceeded to the next item on the agenda, a Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 2.003, Equity and Access. Ms. Emily Sikes, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development, presented the proposed changes.

Ms. Sikes reported that the proposed amendment aligns the regulation with several Florida statute sections. She stated that the amendment proposes a change in the name of the regulation from "Equity and Access" to "Equal Access and Opportunity." Ms. Sikes further added that the proposed amendment includes that discrimination based on pregnancy is prohibited on university campuses. The amendment also reduces the number of items institutions must annually report on, including eliminating the annual Florida Equity Report Guidelines review by the Council on Equal Opportunity and Diversity. She explained that institutions would no longer be required to report information on specific initiatives and performance related to equity and access in academic services, programs, and student enrollment. She stated that the proposed amendment also removes the requirement to report the representation by race and sex in student enrollment, senior-level administrative positions, and faculty rank and tenure status. Ms. Sikes noted that these reports are not required in Florida statutes, and their removal supports the Board's initiative to reduce reporting burdens for the institutions. Ms. Sikes concluded her presentation by adding that the proposed amendment also implements an annual assessment by the Chancellor on the progress of each university's plan in support of equal opportunity in intercollegiate athletics.

Chair Cerio asked Ms. Rachel Kamoutsas, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary to the Board of Governors, to provide the Board with the process of rolling out this amendment and to share the universities' input on the proposed changes. Ms. Kamoutsas explained that this amendment was informally distributed to the university general counsels in May and has been discussed through weekly calls with the institutions. Ms. Kamoutsas shared a summary of the input from the formal regulation development process in July. The written feedback she shared was from three institutions and included detailed plans on progress. She reported more specific feedback, including expanding the language of discrimination used in the proposed amendment to include retaliation. Ms. Kamoutsas explained that after some research, the term discrimination was determined to be broad enough to include retaliation and harassment, so the term discrimination was kept in the language of the regulation. She further shared that in a previous draft of the amendment, there was an annual reporting requirement to be submitted to the Board office regarding the institution's progress with increasing employment among the various demographics; however, after consultation with the Department of Management Services and further interpretation of Florida statute, that reporting requirement was deemed unnecessary. She concluded by stating that she received general expression for reducing the reporting requirements from the institutions.

Chair Cerio stated that there are federal reporting requirements regarding this, so the proposed amendment removes the state-level reporting requirement to reduce redundancy. Governor Amanda Phalin asked why the proposed amendment removes language in section 2, titled Equal Access for Opportunity for Students, subsection (b), which requires universities to establish a designated office or person responsible for developing and implementing each university's equal employment opportunity program. Ms. Kamoutsas clarified that section 2(b) is maintained in the regulation per the proposed amendment with the same language inserted in section 3(c). The change was part of the reorganization of the regulation. Ms. Kamoutsas explained that in other regulations, students have a designated office to help navigate the complaints process, such as the student ombudsman office as stipulated in Board of Governors Regulation 6.011, Student Ombudsman. She also asserted that another office instructs the university in addressing sexual harassment and misconduct complaints specifically for students. Governor Phalin continued to express concern and stated that the ombudsman office is also for faculty in many cases. She further commented that if the regulation requires an office to monitor equal opportunity for faculty and staff, she would like this to also extend to students.

Ms. Kamoutsas added that the provision was always relevant to equal employment opportunity, so it was not deleted from the regulation but moved to another section. She stated that the section above the referenced section says there is to be an establishment of policies and mechanisms that prohibit and address unlawful discrimination, including harassment of students, employees, visitors, and university

invitees. She concluded that as a requirement in Board of Governors Regulation, 6.011 institutions must have a student ombudsman office, which already serves this function.

Governor Cerio entertained a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 2.003, Equity and Access.

Governor Phalin requested a motion to amend the regulation to add back the language stricken in section 2(b), which required establishing an office or person for students to monitor and implement this regulation. Chair Cerio asked if there would be a second to Governor Phalin's motion.

Governor Eric Silagy asked for clarification on whether Governor Phalin's motion is to ensure consistency across regulations. Ms. Kamoutsas stated the proposed motion aims to gain parity with language that only existed for equal opportunity. She added that she has not seen any Florida statute requiring this office.

Governor Alan Levine asked Governor Phalin whether her motion suggests that in addition to the function of section 2 of the regulation that mentions policies and mechanisms must be in place for students, there also needs to be a separate office. He commented that the committee should consider whether this would be over-regulating the institutions and whether it should be up to university presidents in how they want to comply with the function of the regulation. Governor Phalin agreed with Governor Levine and suggested she would be okay with removing the establishment of a person or office provision for faculty to ensure that the equal opportunity access and process is consistent for both students and faculty.

Governor Cerio asked Governor Phalin to restate her motion. Governor Phalin restated her motion to amend the proposed amendment to add back the language that was stricken, which required establishing an office or person for students to monitor and implement this regulation. Chair Cerio asked the committee for a second motion and hearing none, the motion died.

Governor Cerio entertained a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 2.003, Equity and Access, to which Governor Frost moved to approve, and Governor Diaz seconded. The motion passed with one nay from Governor Phalin.

4. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.014, Bachelors' Degree Exceptions to 120 Credit Hours Requirement

Chair Cerio moved to the next item on the agenda, the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.014, Bachelors' Degree Exceptions to 120 Credit Hours Requirement. Chair Cerio recognized Ms. Sikes to present on the proposed changes.

Ms. Sikes stated that this regulation authorizes the Board of Governors to approve a request by a university for a bachelor's degree program to exceed the standard of 120 credit hours.

She added that the proposed amendment would refine the processes for changing credit hours for bachelor's degrees approved to exceed 120 credit hours and would require Board approval not only for a bachelor's degree to exceed 120 credit hours but also for any future increases to the credit hour requirements beyond what the Board had approved.

Ms. Sikes noted that the proposed amendment also delegates the authority to the boards of trustees to reduce the credit hours or revert them to 120 for any bachelor's degree programs approved to exceed 120 hours. The proposed amendment would require the university to submit a notification of the reduction in hours and include the university board of trustees approval to the Board of Governors' office.

Governor Cerio asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.014, Bachelors' Degree Exceptions to 120 Credit Hours Requirement, to which Governor Phalin moved to approve, Governor Frost seconded, and the motion passed.

5. University of Central Florida Educational Site Closures and Reclassification Requests

Chair Cerio moved to the next item on the agenda and recognized Ms. Sikes to present the requests from the University of Central Florida (UCF) for closures and reclassifications of educational sites.

Ms. Sikes reported that UCF had submitted four educational site requests for the Board to consider. She explained that Board of Governors Regulation 8.009 outlines seven categories used to classify the various types of locations where the institution's teaching, research, and service activities occur.

Ms. Sikes presented the first request for the UCF Ocala site to be reclassified from a Type III campus to a Special Purpose Site. The request changes the type of site from a Type III campus to a special purpose site. She added that the Board has to approve removing the Type III status since the Board initially approved that status.

Ms. Sikes reported that this site is a joint facility with the College of Central Florida, offering courses toward a Bachelor's in Elementary Education. She stated that UCF was using this site to help students in its 2+2 program transition to the university. Ms. Sikes explained that due to a lack of demand for the elementary education program, UCF proposes no longer offering instruction at this site but will continue to have a staff member available to guide 2+2 students through the admissions and enrollment process at UCF. The university requested that this site be reclassified to a special purpose site, and Board staff concurred with this change.

Ms. Sikes moved to the second request, which was to close UCF Leesburg, a Type III Campus, at a joint-use facility with Lake-Sumter State College. She explained that UCF previously offered instruction leading to a Bachelor's in Elementary Education and supported 2+2 students. However, Ms. Sikes reported that UCF proposes closing this site due to a lack of demand for the elementary education program. She noted that

UCF plans to offer remote coaching for the 2+2 students and install an interactive kiosk at the site to assist students in their transition to UCF, which would alleviate the need to maintain operations at this location.

Ms. Sikes presented the third request from UCF, which was to close UCF Palm Bay. She explained that this is a Type III Campus, a joint-use facility with Eastern Florida State College where UCF had offered instruction and support for 2+2 students. Ms. Sikes stated that UCF previously offered instruction leading to bachelor's degrees in Psychology, Human Communications, and Interdisciplinary studies and provided support for 2+2 students. She noted that UCF proposes closing this site since programs are now offered online and at the UCF Downtown campus; however, UCF plans to provide remote coaching for the 2+2 students and install an interactive kiosk at the site to assist students in their transition to UCF, which will alleviate the need to maintain operations at this location. She added that, similar to the Leesburg site, the university offers in-person coaching at the nearby UCF Cocoa site.

Ms. Sikes presented the final request from UCF, which was to close UCF South Orlando, a Type III Campus. She explained that this site was being used as a testing site; however, UCF relocated the testing site to a site with more modern facilities. She concluded her presentation by noting that UCF signed a sublease agreement for this site with Orange County to operate a public park on the site and that the county has accepted all responsibility for the site.

Chair Cerio first entertained a motion to approve the request to reclassify the University of Central Florida's Ocala Educational Site from a type III campus to a special purpose site. Governor Haddock moved to approve, Governor Phalin seconded, and the motion passed.

Chair Cerio then entertained a motion to approve the University of Central Florida's requests to close the UCF Leesburg campus, the UCF Palm Bay Campus, and the UCF South Orlando campus. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Hitchcock seconded, and the motion passed.

6. Research Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition, CIP 51.3102 University of North Florida

Chair Cerio recognized Ms. Sikes to provide an overview of the request from the University of North Florida (UNF) to reclassify its Professional Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition to a Research Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition due to a shift in curriculum. The Board of Governors approved the program as a Professional Doctorate at its March 19, 2015, meeting.

Ms. Sikes began the presentation by stating that the proposed reclassification based on the shift in curriculum is the only change to the existing program. She added that the program's curriculum originally began with advanced practice project courses, but the curriculum has evolved to include research core requirements and dissertation credit hours.

Ms. Sikes stated that graduates of the program will continue to be prepared for employment in the clinical setting. She remarked that graduates will also be trained to conduct research to improve the practice of nutrition and dietetics and be prepared to teach in research-based and practice-based nutrition and dietetics postsecondary programs.

Ms. Sikes noted that if approved by the Board of Governors, the proposed Research Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition would be the third research doctorate in dietetics and nutritional sciences in the System. She mentioned that the University of Florida and Florida International University responded positively to UNF's proposed reclassification, indicated that the proposed program would not negatively impact enrollment in their programs, and expressed exploring opportunities for collaboration.

Ms. Sikes explained that, as with all new academic degree proposals, Board staff reviewed national and state workforce projections for occupations in this industry and reported strong projected workforce need for graduates with this degree. She also mentioned that student enrollment in the Professional Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition at UNF has increased since the program was implemented.

Ms. Sikes concluded her presentation by stating that UNF would charge the currently approved differentiated graduate-level tuition rate, as shown in the presentation, and that no changes in the program resources are required.

Chair Cerio asked for a motion to approve the University of North Florida Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition, CIP 51.3102, as a research doctorate at the currently approved differentiated graduate-level tuition rate of \$750.00 per credit hour for Florida resident students and non-resident students, with a program implementation term of spring 2024. Governor Edge moved to approve, Governor Frost seconded, and the motion passed.

7. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Cerio adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Tim Cerio, Chair

Erica Vander Meer
Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs