

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
January 24, 2024

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<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/1-24-24-board-of-governors-meeting/>

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Academic and Research Excellence Committee Vice Chair Lydecker convened the meeting on January 24, 2024, at 11:33 a.m., with the following members present: Governors Bell Barnett, Edge, Jones, Levine, Oliva, and Silagy. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of the June 21, 2023, Committee Meeting

Vice Chair Lydecker requested a motion to approve the June 21, 2023, committee meeting minutes. Board Vice Chair Levine moved to approve, Governor Edge seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. World Class Faculty and Scholar Program Report

Vice Chair Lydecker explained that section 1004.6497, Florida Statutes, requires the Board of Governors to submit a report on the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program to the legislature by March 15th of each year. Last year, the legislature provided \$90 million to support university efforts to recruit and retain exemplary faculty and research scholars.

Ms. Emily Sikes, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, presented a summary of the report. Ms. Sikes highlighted that most of the program funds supported faculty and research, with 45% of funding (over \$22 million) being used to recruit new faculty across six different institutions. Retention has also increased due to the program, with over 2,600 faculty retained. The turnover rate of faculty hired through the program is lower than that of faculty not hired through the program. Ms. Sikes reported that faculty recruited through the program have transferred approximately \$65 million in research funding to the institutions. She highlighted that in addition to transferring research, the faculty supported by this program have more than \$518 million in research proposals under development or review. She emphasized that if these trends persist, the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program will continue to increase the research profiles and national rankings of the universities in the System.

Vice Chair Lydecker requested a motion to approve the 2024 World Class Faculty and Scholar Program Report. Board Vice Chair Levine moved to approve, Governor Bell Barnett seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program Report

Vice Chair Lydecker explained that section 1004.6498, Florida Statutes, requires the Board of Governors to submit a report of the Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program to the legislature by March 15th of each year. He said the legislature provided \$60 million in the prior fiscal year to support university efforts to enhance the quality and excellence of professional and graduate programs in medicine, law, and business.

Ms. Sikes presented a summary of the report. She highlighted that most of the program funds were used to recruit and retain faculty and support student success initiatives. She reported that 65% of funds were used to recruit and retain faculty, including salaries and research investments. Regarding student success, 22% of funds were used to support students through recruitment, financial aid, licensure examination preparation, and advising. When examining funds across the program areas, universities spent approximately \$24 million on graduate business programs, \$20 million to support graduate education in medicine, and \$13.7 million on law schools. She summarized that the program has allowed institutions to enhance their graduate programs, grow enrollment, and hire additional graduate-level faculty.

Vice Chair Lydecker emphasized that the Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program supports enhancing graduate programs, enrollment growth, expanding graduate-level faculty, and scholarships for graduate students.

Vice Chair Lydecker requested a motion to approve the 2024 Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program Report. Board Vice Chair Levine moved to approve, Governor Edge seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Vice Chair Lydecker adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Charles Lydecker, Vice Chair

Mariela Ramirez,
Intern, Academic and Student Affairs