

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**Academic Excellence and Economic Prosperity Committee**  
March 2, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Florida State University Foreign Activity Request

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**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION**

Consider approval of the Foreign Activity Request from Florida State University.

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Section 288.860, Florida Statutes; Board of Governors Regulation 9.012

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Section 288.860, Florida Statutes, and Board of Governors Regulation 9.012 establish reporting and approval requirements for certain agreements, partnerships, and activities between state universities and foreign principals based in countries of concern. The statute defines countries of concern as the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicholas Maduro, or the Syrian Arab Republic, including any agency of or entity under significant control of such foreign country of concern.

Florida State University (FSU) is requesting approval to participate in the Gram-Negative Antibiotic Discovery Innovator Initiative, a consortium-based research activity sponsored by the Novo Nordisk Foundation. The consortium comprises 21 other entities, and Florida Statute and Board Regulation 9.012 require the approval of the activity by FSU's Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors.

Florida State University reported that the proposed activity is expected to provide research funding and academic benefits to the university and its students, including support for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, as well as expanded research capacity in antibiotic discovery. The consortium is intended to improve cross-campus research at selected universities worldwide to advance the discovery of novel targeted antibiotics. The research funding is from the Novo Nordisk Foundation.

Florida State University completed a research security screening for participation in this consortium. The university reported that no controlled technologies will be transferred and that no consortium members will have access to FSU systems or facilities. Consortium members will utilize a public data repository. The consortium provides for specific record-keeping guidelines and authorization protocols for the optional sharing of confidential information, when needed. The proposed activity is anticipated to occur from March 2026 through March 2029.

Board staff have reviewed the request to ensure it aligns with the requirements in section 288.860, Florida Statute, and Board Regulation 9.012.

If approved by the Academic Excellence and Economic Prosperity Committee, this item will be forwarded to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Richard McCullough, President of Florida State University, will provide an overview of Florida State University's Foreign Activity Request.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:**

1. FSU Foreign Activity Request
2. FSU Response to Follow-up Questions

**Facilitators/Presenters:**

Dr. Richard McCullough