

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
January 29, 2020

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and its committees are accessible at <http://www.flbog.edu/>.*

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Alan Levine convened the meeting on January 29, 2020, at 4:24 p.m. with the following members present: Governors Lydecker, Scott, Stermon, and Tripp. A quorum was established.

Chair Levine updated the Committee on issues related to protecting Florida's higher education research. Chair Levine mentioned that Speaker Oliva of the Florida House of Representatives established a Select Committee on the Integrity of Research Institutions and that this new Committee would be working with the State University System of Florida (SUS) institutions to collect information. Chair Levine stated that he would be discussing this issue with the Vice Presidents for Research and that the Academic and Research Excellence Committee would receive an update on the House Committee's actions at its March meeting.

2. Minutes of Academic and Research Excellence Committee Meeting

Chair Levine called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2019, Committee meeting. Governor Stermon moved to approve the minutes, Governor Tripp seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. World Class Faculty and Scholar Program Report

Chair Levine stated that the next item on the Committee's agenda was the consideration of the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program Report. Section 1004.6497, Florida Statutes, requires that the Board of Governors submit a report on the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program to the Legislature by March 15 of each year. The Legislature provided \$90.5 million in 2018-19 to support the efforts of the State University System institutions to recruit and retain exemplary faculty and research scholars. The 2020 report includes expenditure information for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Board staff collected the statutorily required data points from State University System institutions in the fall of 2019 to create the 2020 report.

Chair Levine recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development, to present the 2020 World Class Faculty and Scholar Program Report.

Ms. Sikes began her presentation by stating that this program was formally established in statute in March of 2018, and that the Board is required to submit this report to the Legislature each March. She noted that the report provides high-level information on how the System spent funds from this program during fiscal year 2018-19.

Ms. Sikes stated that the program was established to fund and support the efforts of state universities to recruit and retain exemplary faculty and research scholars and to secure additional research funding, with the intent being to elevate the national competitiveness of the System. She articulated that in terms of program expenditures for the 2018-19 fiscal year, the System had devoted almost all of the funds to faculty recruitment, retention, and research. Some examples of faculty recruitment and retention efforts include research-centric cluster hires, awards for outstanding performance, professional development, and overall hiring/retention of faculty. Examples of research efforts include commercialization efforts, instruction and research infrastructure enhancements, student research initiatives, and postdoctoral fellowships.

Ms. Sikes highlighted several key takeaways from the report including achieving improvements in national institutional rankings, recruiting over 300 faculty under the program, retaining over 1,600 existing faculty, transferring roughly \$90 million in research funding to the institutions, and having almost \$300 million in research proposals under development or review.

Governor Huizenga asked how much of the \$92.9 million in transferred research funding was attributable to the faculty recruited under this program. Ms. Sikes responded that she believes it is almost all of it, but she would confirm. Governor Huizenga noted that if this is the case, it would be worthwhile to report to the Legislature that the System has already recouped the investment in this program with the new research dollars being transferred into the institutions.

Chair Levine thanked Ms. Sikes for her presentation and asked if there were any questions from the Committee. Hearing no questions from the Committee, Governor Tripp made a motion to approve the 2020 World Class Faculty and Scholar Program Report. Governor Lydecker seconded the motion and the members of the Committee concurred.

4. Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program Report

Chair Levine announced that the last item on the Committee's agenda was the consideration of the 2020 Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program Report. He stated that section 1004.6498, Florida Statutes, requires that the Board of Governors submit a report on the Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program to the Legislature by March 15 of each year. Chair Levine stated that the Legislature provided \$60 million in 2018-19 to State University System institutions to enhance the quality and excellence of professional and graduate schools and degree programs in medicine, law, and business.

Chair Levine again recognized Ms. Sikes to present the Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program Report.

Ms. Sikes began her presentation by stating that this program was established in statute in March of 2018. She explained the report provides high-level information on how the System spent funds from this program during fiscal year 2018-19.

Ms. Sikes stated that the purpose of the program is to enhance the quality and excellence of graduate schools and degree programs in medicine, law, and business. She reminded the Committee that the System includes six medical schools, four law schools, and graduate-level business programs at ten institutions. She noted that New College of Florida and Florida Polytechnic University did not receive any funding from this program since neither has a college of medicine or law, and since they do not offer graduate-level business programs. She articulated that institutions received funding based on prior performance on indicators such as licensure exam pass rates, employment outcomes, and the number of graduates. She stated that during the 2018-19 academic year, SUS institutions awarded 702 medical degrees, 774 law degrees, and 4,793 graduate-level business degrees.

Ms. Sikes noted that the Legislature provided funding of \$60 million to the SUS institutions in 2018-19 to support the program. She explained that most of the funds were used to recruit and retain faculty and support student success initiatives. Some examples of the student support activities include financial aid in the form of scholarships to recruit graduate students, graduate assistant pay increases, and also services around career placement and academic advising.

Ms. Sikes stated that when examining the funds across the program areas of medicine, law, and business, the majority of the funds supported faculty and students. She explained that over the last year, SUS institutions spent \$25.9 million to support colleges of medicine. A majority of the funds (52%) supported faculty or students, and 16% supported other initiatives such as efforts to improve passage rates on licensure examinations, technology enhancements, and support staff. She went on to describe that SUS institutions spent approximately \$17.4 million on law schools. Almost two-thirds of those funds were spent on faculty and students, while the remaining funds were devoted to other initiatives to increase bar passage rates, expenditures to improve national rankings, and other enhancements to existing learning environments.

Ms. Sikes explained that SUS institutions spent approximately \$25.8 million on graduate business education. Most of these funds (85%) were spent on faculty and students, while the remaining funds were spent on other graduate student initiatives, including enhanced advising and efforts to improve national program rankings through data analytics.

Ms. Sikes highlighted several key takeaways from the report, including an increase in the percentage of graduate-level completers working in Florida and earning more than \$40,000. There were also significant advancements in the national rankings for graduate and professional programs. For example, University of Florida and Florida

International University law schools both improved by ten slots in one year. Ms. Sikes reiterated that it might take more time to realize the full effects of this program since it is relatively new, and it takes time to influence the outcome metrics.

Chair Levine thanked Ms. Sikes for her presentation and asked if there were any questions from the Committee. Hearing no questions from the Committee, Governor Tripp made a motion to approve 2020 Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program Report. Governor Scott seconded the motion and the members of the Committee concurred.

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Levine adjourned the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

Alan Levine, Chair

Roger Strickland
Director, Economic Development