

MINUTES  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE  
CONFERENCE CALL  
May 5, 2020

*Video or audio archives of the meetings of the Board of Governors  
and its committees are accessible at <http://www.flbog.edu/>.*

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Alan Levine convened the meeting on May 5, 2020, at 2:40 p.m. with the following members present: Governors Jordan, Edge, Lydecker, Scott, Stermon, and Tripp. A quorum was established.

Chair Levine took a moment to recognize institutions and provide examples of ways the institutions have addressed COVID-19. He stated that the University of Florida continues to work on COVID-19-related research. Currently, the University of Florida has multiple active clinical studies and two Food and Drug Administration Investigational New Drug Applications pending.

Chair Levine next highlighted that the University of South Florida developed a COVID-19 Rapid Response Research Grants program and selected 14 projects to receive initial funding. The goal of the effort is to quickly scale up these projects in the next few months, while also seeking longer-term federal research support through the recently passed CARES Act and other sources.

Lastly, Chair Levine reported that the Florida State University Office of Research held an event called Collaborative Collision, which brought together faculty members from various departments to work on projects targeted at COVID-19. Faculty from a wide range of disciplines gathered via Zoom to discuss prospective projects. Chair Levine added that Florida State University provided the initial seed funding, enabling faculty to compete for federal grants.

2. Minutes of Academic and Research Excellence Committee Meeting

Chair Levine asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2020, committee meeting. Governor Lydecker moved to approve, Governor Jordan seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Update on the House Select Committee on the Integrity of Research Institutions

Chair Levine stated that the next item on the committee's agenda was to update the Board on the activities of the House Select Committee on the Integrity of Research Institutions, which was created by Speaker Oliva in December of 2019. The House Select Committee examined research activities and relationships between research institutions and foreign entities. He explained that System institutions were very cooperative with the House Select Committee's investigation and responded to the requests for information. Also, multiple universities delivered presentations to the House Select Committee, along with the Chancellor. Chair Levine stated that Senate Bill 72 includes a recommendation from the House Select Committee for universities to require faculty and staff to disclose financial interests and relationships with external entities. Chair Levine noted that System institutions have already been having discussions about implementing these changes. Chair Levine said the Board and System remain committed to collaborating with them as needed going forward.

### 4. SUS Research and Innovation Dashboard Update

Chair Levine announced that the last item on the agenda was to hear an update regarding the State University System Research and Innovation Dashboard. He noted that in October of 2019, the Board approved a new research expenditure goal for the System of \$3 billion. Chair Levine acknowledged a recent development related to the University of South Florida's historical research expenditures and that this development could create a gap in reaching the System's updated goal. He said one mechanism for tracking progress towards this goal is the Research and Innovation Dashboard. In September 2016, the Board approved a 19-metric dashboard to document the progress that the System is making towards the expenditure goal, as well as the System's progress towards achieving national and international prominence in research.

Chair Levine recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development, to provide an overview of the 2020 dashboard.

Ms. Sikes highlighted several initiatives designed to elevate the System's research profile, including the establishment of the Academic and Research Excellence Committee; the support by the Board, along with the Legislature and Governor for the World Class Faculty and Scholar program; regular meetings by the Vice Presidents for Research; the annual R&D workshop in Washington D.C.; and the R&D Dashboard. She said the R&D Dashboard has four major categories, Research Contracts and Grants, Innovation, People, and Return on Investment.

Ms. Sikes summarized the data for the Research Contracts and Grants category by stating that the system performance has increased year-over-year across all metrics in this category. Ms. Sikes said that in terms of federal expenditures, the System saw a 13% increase over the last five years. When compared to the national totals, the System has seen quicker growth, though the Board office still does not have national totals for 2019. Ms. Sikes stated that there were 123 federal grants between two or

more System institutions for Academic Year 2018-19, which represented a slight increase over the prior year.

Ms. Sikes stated that most of the Innovation category, which includes patents awarded, licenses, start-ups, and industry-related grants and contracts, showed year-over-year increases. The only exceptions were the number of start-ups and licenses executed since those metrics tend to be volatile depending on the phase of the related research. She brought specific attention to metric 11, the Number of I-Corps teams. She said the purpose of the I-Corps Teams program is to identify National Science Foundation-funded researchers that will receive additional support. This support can be in the form of entrepreneurial education, mentoring, and funding to accelerate the translation of knowledge derived from fundamental research into emerging products and services that can attract third-party financing. She explained that the System increased from 40 such teams last year to 181 teams this year.

Ms. Sikes indicated that the next area of focus was the People category of the dashboard, which includes doctoral degrees, post-doctorates, national academy members, and the number of undergraduate students engaged in research. Using the currently available data, Ms. Sikes noted that the performance on metrics was positive and showed year-over-year increases. She added that the Board office is expecting to receive additional data over the upcoming months.

Ms. Sikes said the last area of the dashboard for review was the Return on Investment category, which includes metrics such as the number of jobs supported from external funding and the economic impact of state and federal funding. She noted that the System continues to show strong results on the metrics included in this category. Ms. Sikes reported that the total number of jobs supported by external funding and the economic impact from federal funding were both up over the prior year. However, she said that state expenditures did drop when compared to the preceding year.

Ms. Sikes concluded her presentation by summarizing some key takeaways from the R&D Dashboard. She noted that the System continues to increase research expenditures, with the total coming in at nearly \$2.3 billion for 2019. Additionally, federal expenditures have increased by 13% in the last five years. The System is collaborating on 123 federal awards, and the System's research efforts continue to bring jobs and positive economic impact to the state of Florida.

Chair Levine thanked Ms. Sikes for her presentation.

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Levine adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

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Alan Levine, Chair

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Roger Strickland  
Director, Economic Development