

MINUTES  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY  
FT. MYERS, FLORIDA  
August 29, 2019

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

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Norman Tripp convened the Academic and Student Affairs meeting at 8:32 a.m. with Governors Cerio, Felton, Frost (phone), Johnson, Morton, and Scott present. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of June 12, 2019, Committee Meeting

Chair Tripp asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2019, committee meeting. Governor Felton moved to approve, Governor Scott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer's Report

The report from the Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer was canceled.

4. Legislative Budget Request for the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering

Chair Tripp introduced the Legislative Budget Request and informed the committee that if approved, the request would be sent to the Board's Budget Committee for consideration. Chair Tripp then recognized Dr. J. Murray Gibson, Dean of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University-Florida State University (FAMU-FSU) College of Engineering, to present the Legislative Budget Request.

Dean Gibson provided the history of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, noting that the college was founded 37 years ago and reaffirmed by the State and the Board of Governors five years ago. The college currently enrolls 2,500 students and has 120 faculty members. Dean Gibson indicated that the College of Engineering partnership of two universities is unique in the nation. He discussed the distinctive mission of each institution and the importance of the partnership in contributing to the success of the joint College of Engineering.

Dean Gibson noted that although the United States was becoming more diverse, engineering was not the most diverse profession. He indicated that current minority participation in the field of engineering is about 10-15%. Dean Gibson also noted the role inclusion played in engineers' intentions to stay or leave a company. The lack of inclusion particularly affects minorities in the field of engineering.

He stated that the two unique aspects of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering is its undergraduate demographics and its graduate degree production. Dean Gibson pointed out that FAMU-FSU College of Engineering's undergraduate diversity closely matches the demographic diversity of the United States, which is not typical of engineering schools. The undergraduate diversity creates an inclusive environment, allowing students to work in diverse teams. Dean Gibson also noted that the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering is the number four producer of African-American Ph.D.s in the United States.

Additionally, the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering is the only college in the country that is truly integrated. Dean Gibson stated that other institutions such as Georgia Tech, use feeder models where the institution relies on surrounding HBCU institutions to provide the undergraduate education and to prepare students to enter their graduate programs. The FAMU-FSU College of Engineering is the only institution in the country where faculty from two institutions work together to provide student instruction. Dean Gibson emphasized that recruiting faculty is critical to sustaining this success.

Dean Gibson shared many of the recent accomplishments of the college including: the improvement in the U.S. News and World Report Rankings over the last two years; increased research expenditures; increased Ph.D. enrollment; increased graduates; recognition as the most diverse engineering school in the nation; the third-highest number of African American faculty in engineering; and a 28% female student population.

Dean Gibson explained that the college needs funding in order to continue their achievements. The budget had been flat over the last 10 years with the exception of a \$1,000,000 increase a few years ago. He noted that the college has been requesting an increase over the last few years, but has not been successful. The budget is now at a point where it may begin to negatively affect the operations of the college. Dean Gibson stated that the college has relied on carry-forward funding to sustain its operation. As of this year, he indicated that the college is no longer able to rely on carry-forward funding to sustain the college.

The \$6,511,000 Legislative Budget Request will allow the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering to recruit additional faculty, support faculty research; support undergraduate student success; strengthen graduate student programs, and improve faculty retention. Dean Gibson thanked the committee for the opportunity to present and concluded his presentation.

Chancellor Criser noted that in 2014-2015, at the direction of the Board of Governors, a management council for the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering was formed. The membership is comprised of the Chancellor, both university presidents, both provosts, both chief financial officers, and one student from each institution. Additionally, at that time, the Board created a separate line item budget request to the legislature for the funding of the college. This request was to ensure there is fiscal transparency and oversight of the college, thereby making it a unique college of engineering when compared to other colleges of engineering in the system. He stated that both

universities have also contributed funding to the institution, but it exists as a separate item requiring special consideration.

Chancellor Criser commended Dean Gibson's efforts and hard work. He noted that it is important that the Board of Governors continue to support the efforts of the college.

Chair Tripp inquired about the additional funding provided by the institutions. Dean Gibson clarified that the college has a joint budget shared between the two institutions. At times there has been additional funding from both institutions, which has been helpful; however, this funding is not sufficient to sustain the growth of the college.

Chair Tripp asked if the institutions have discussed matching any of the \$6,511,000 from the request. Dean Gibson stated that both FAMU and FSU have been supportive in the past and have provided a small amount of recurring funding. Dean Gibson did note that if one institution provided more support than the other in order to hire new faculty, it would upset the balance. He expressed the importance of maintaining the balance among faculty and the partnership.

Governor Huizenga stated that he is in full support of the proposal but pointed out that this request has been submitted several times, but it has not received support from the Legislature. He also noted that the efforts of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering are very important and should be a priority for the institutions and the state. He also mentioned that the initiative should be considered of greater importance than athletic programs, and both institutions and the state should consider funding priorities.

Chair Tripp asked for a motion to approve the \$6,511,000 Legislative Budget Request for the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. Governor Johnson moved to approve. The motion was not seconded.

##### 5. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.001 General Admissions

Chair Tripp recognized Dr. Traki L. Taylor, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, to present the proposed revisions to Board of Governors Regulation 6.001, General Admissions.

Dr. Taylor explained that Board staff are proposing changes to three Board of Governor's Regulations. The first is Regulation 6.001, General Admissions. The changes are necessary due to language included in House Bill 741, which adds religion as a protected class during the admissions process. As a result, Board staff propose amending the regulation to include religion as a protected class. This will ensure the Board of Governors are in compliance with Section 1000.05(2), Florida Statutes.

Chair Tripp asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation 6.001, General Admissions. Governor Scott moved to approve, Governor Morton seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## 6. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.021 Hazing Prohibited

Chair Tripp recognized Dr. Lynn Nelson, Director for Student Affairs, to present the proposed revisions to Board of Governors Regulation 6.021, Hazing Prohibited. Chair Tripp reminded the committee members that the regulation revisions are due to the changes that occurred during legislative session.

Dr. Nelson stated that Regulation 6.021 is being amended to address changes to Section 1006.63 from Senate Bill 1080. The amendment expands the definition of hazing to include the perpetuation or furtherance of a tradition or ritual of any university student, organization, or group. The proposed Subsection 6 of the Regulation will require each university to submit an annual report to the Chancellor with the number of hazing incidents that resulted in a student or student organization or group being held responsible for a violation of the university's anti-hazing policy. The report will be due to the Chancellor by October 1 of each year.

Following Dr. Nelson's presentation, Chair Tripp asked if any of the committee members had questions. None of the committee members expressed questions.

Chair Tripp asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation 6.0021, Hazing Prohibited. Governor Cerio moved to approve, Governor Johnson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## 7. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.003 Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability

Chair Tripp recognized Dr. Nelson to present the proposed revisions to Board of Governors Regulation 8.003, Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability.

Dr. Nelson explained that the proposed amendments to Regulation 8.003 are the result of Senate Bill 6, which amended Subsections 4 and 8 of Section 1004.085, Florida Statutes. The legislative changes omitted the requirement for institutions to identify and report wide cost variance of textbooks and instructional materials among different sections of the same course for all general education courses and the requirement to review textbooks and instructional materials that remain in use for more than one term. Each institution is still required to submit to the Chancellor the annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report by September 30 of each year. The Chancellor's summary of the institutional reports is submitted to the Board by November 1 of each year.

Following Dr. Nelson's presentation, Chair Tripp asked if any of the Committee members had questions. None of the Committee Members expressed questions.

Chair Tripp asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation 8.003, Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability. Governor Morton moved to approve, Governor Johnson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## 8. SUS and FCS Math Re-Design Update

Chair Tripp recognized Dr. Taylor to present an update on the SUS and FCS Math Re-Design effort.

Dr. Taylor began her presentation to the committee by providing background on the Math Re-Design effort. She stated that this effort, in partnership with the Florida College System, has been ongoing for the last year. Dr. Taylor described the seven milestones with their completion dates, which were used to frame the Re-Design effort.

Of the seven milestones, Dr. Taylor focused her presentation on Milestone 7- Share Recommendations & Best Practices. This milestone was completed during the Math institute that took place on June 27, 2019, in Gainesville, Florida. The institute consisted of panels and breakout sessions and included workgroup participants, experts, students, and support staff who informed or engaged in the effort. Among the panels present at the institute was a student panel consisting of students who were participants in math programs.

The recommendations from the workgroups were presented at the institute and encompassed recommendations affecting the entire K-20 system in the State of Florida. Additionally, the recommendations included both policy and practice recommendations that ranged from the individual level to the state level.

Several key themes were identified in the recommendations, including pathways, curriculum and instruction, advising and placement, learning outcomes, professional development, and communication and engagement. The workgroups, including faculty members and practitioners, had discussions around the key themes that helped to frame the 11 recommendations from the workgroups. The institute provided an opportunity for the workgroup participants to engage in further discussions around these topics.

The recommendations for policy changes included strengthening math pathways, implementing multiple measures for placement, improving prerequisite alignment, revising learning outcomes, and increasing placement opportunities.

The practice recommendations from the workgroups included improving K-20 collaboration, aligning standards across sectors, furthering professional development for instructors, providing on-demand math skill modules for students, strengthening student advising, and increasing parent/guardian support and career planning information. Dr. Taylor provided a web link to where the recommendations can be viewed along with a list of resources and materials developed during the one-year Re-Design effort. The information will be available for feedback until October 31, 2019.

Following Dr. Taylor's presentation, Board Chair Lautenbach asked if the University of Florida Provost Joe Glover's approach to teaching calculus was discussed during the workgroups. Provost Glover stated that it was not included in the joint Math Re-Design effort because the student populations were broader than the SUS.

Chair Tripp expressed concerns about the depth of the recommendations made by the workgroups. Additionally, he expressed concern about the recommendations addressing the gap between math coursework for students transitioning from high school to college and class size for college mathematics courses. Chair Tripp requested additional information regarding how to put the recommendations from the Re-Design effort into practice.

Provost Glover agreed with Chair Tripp's concerns and stated that there have been a series of best practice recommendations from around the nation regarding how to best address the gap between math courses for students entering college. These practices rely on active learning, which requires smaller class sizes in order to be successful. Provost Glover noted that these initiatives are being implemented around the state, but are dependent upon the availability of resources at each institution.

Chair Tripp asked if there is anything in place to measure results. Provost Glover stated that there are several initiatives at the University of Florida (UF). One included splitting the freshman class into two cohorts. One cohort received traditional Mathematics instruction, while the other received the new method of instruction. The department chair has taken several measurements and published a paper on the differences between the two cohorts. Provost Glover offered to make the results available to the Board and indicated that similar efforts are ongoing at Florida International University.

Dr. Sally McRorie, Florida State University Provost, also noted that Florida State University (FSU) has implemented smaller class sizes and active learning for mathematics courses. Additionally, the institution has implemented learning assistants, which are upper-division students who were successful in the courses to act as mentors. FSU has found that, in some cases, the students feel more comfortable interacting with the learning assistants than with the professors.

Chair Lautenbach asked about the calculus pass rates with the new initiatives. Provost Glover indicated he did not have the data readily available but was able to share that implementing the active learning method reduced the drop rate in calculus by half. In the next few years, Provost Glover stated that UF's Dean of Engineering will be consulted to determine if there has been any improvement in the readiness of students entering the College of Engineering.

Provost McRorie added that the use of the learning assistants improved the course success rates by 30% and noted that as more learning assistants are trained these rates will continue to increase.

Chair Tripp asked Dr. Taylor if she could follow up with other institutions regarding mathematics initiatives they are undertaking to improve student success. Board Chair Lautenbach emphasized the importance of improving calculus success rates and how that would translate to an improvement in engineering and medical school success rates. Chair Tripp reiterated the importance the Board places on improving math success rates across the SUS and asked that an update be provided at the next meeting.

## 9. Engineering Programs Credit Hour Review

Chair Tripp recognized Dr. McRorie and Dr. Cammy R. Abernathy, Dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering at the University of Florida, to provide an update on the engineering programs credit hour review process.

Dr. McRorie thanked Chair Tripp for the introduction. She noted that this has been an ongoing effort for quite a while, and Dean Abernathy has worked with all of the deans of engineering to collect data and identify the next steps.

Dean Abernathy thanked the Board of Governors for their interest in this issue. She noted that every institution is dedicated to providing the highest quality engineering education possible at the best value possible to their students.

Addressing the first question posed to the Deans of Engineering regarding the number of required credits for engineering programs at peer institutions, Dean Abernathy shared information gained from a survey of peer institutions. Data shows that engineering programs at peer institutions require 126-131 credit hours-to-degree, and all of the SUS Colleges of Engineering fall within that range.

Dean Abernathy stated that engineering programs are accredited by the Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), and most undergraduate engineering programs are required to obtain ABET accreditation. In order to get an engineering license or attend a graduate program, individuals must graduate from an ABET-accredited undergraduate program. ABET accreditation occurs on a six-year cycle and focuses on content of the curriculum and what the student learns. The engineering curriculum must be primarily in response to the needs of an employer or input from alumni.

All SUS institutions have undergone program reviews engaging alumni and industry stakeholders. Some programs were modified and reduced as a result of these reviews, including two at the University of Florida. Alumni and stakeholders recommended against any further reductions in required credits for engineering programs because doing so could jeopardize the viability and employability of program graduates.

Dean Abernathy noted that some of the concern over any further reduction in required hours-to-degree for engineering programs stems from reductions over time in engineering hours-to-degree. Additionally, because some engineering fields require professional licensure, there is a concern that any further reduction in required credits at the undergraduate level would require students to obtain a master's degree before they would be eligible to become licensed engineers.

Governor Morton asked if the reduction in credit hours would continue. Dean Abernathy responded that she did not see the reduction continuing, given that the input received from employers recommended against further reduction in required credits.

Chair Tripp asked what conversations are ongoing with ABET and The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools - Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) regarding

program credit hour reductions. Dean Abernathy stated that ABET's guidance is that alumni and employers should be involved in the process since they will likely be the individuals hiring graduates from the programs.

Chair Tripp asked if ABET Standards align with SACSCOC. Dean Abernathy stated that obtaining ABET accreditation brought the college in line with the accreditation standards for SACSCOC. Provost McRorie also noted that SACSCOC alignment is achieved by bringing in some of the general education knowledge into some of the engineering courses. She also explained that SACSCOC accredits the university as a whole for the entirety of the general education program. Dean Abernathy further explained that other SUS institutions are also working to decrease their time to degree.

Internships are another component of engineering programs, according to Dean Abernathy. Internships can lead to longer graduation time, but they are a critical component of the degree. Additionally, there are other activities such as student design competitions, which also serve a critical role in preparing students for employment following graduation.

Governor Morton asked if internships bear academic credit hours. Dean Abernathy indicated that in some programs they do; however, others may be non-credit bearing. Governor Morton followed up by asking if this practice was the same for the entirety of the SUS. Dean Abernathy indicated that, generally, internships in SUS engineering programs are non-credit bearing. He then asked if Dean Abernathy thought the internships should be credit-bearing. She responded that doing so would require programs to remove content in order to fit the internships into the curriculum. She indicated that many students take the internships regardless of whether or not they earn academic credit. Governor Morton highlighted the importance of competency-based education and the benefits of internships in preparing students for employment after college. Dean Abernathy agreed with Governor Morton, but she noted that internships can delay the time to graduation.

Chair Tripp asked how SUS Engineering graduates compare to other graduates nationwide. Dean Abernathy stated that UF programs are ranked highly in U.S. News and World Reports and are also highly regarded by employers and industry stakeholders.

Chair Tripp followed up by sharing that increasing the time to degree, combined with the delay of entering the workforce, can cost students more. He also inquired if some of the content from the general education courses could be delivered differently in order to reduce the number of required credit hours. Dean Abernathy noted that employers see the value of the content students learn in the general education courses, especially communication coursework.

Governor Huizenga pointed out the differences in the four-year and five-year graduation rates for SUS engineering programs, noting that the five-year graduation rates are also behind. He also expressed concern that removing credits may not accomplish the desired outcome of improving the overall time to degree. Governor Huizenga stated



that considering how the content is delivered may have a positive impact on improving the time to degree.

Governor Scott stated that institutions may consider beginning students earlier, possibly in the summer. He encouraged the Board to consider assisting the institutions in finding resources to help students start their programs earlier. Dean Abernathy agreed with Governor Scott and noted that UF has already begun this practice by teaching calculus in the Summer B term.

Provost McRorie directed the members to a chart in the engineering report showing the success rates of students entering engineering programs with pre-calculus as their highest math entering the institution. She noted that this happens across the system, and the institutions are working to build summer bridge programs to address the mathematics issue and help increase student success.

Chancellor Criser inquired if SUS institutions are able to track the percentage of students that participate in internships and what earnings they have while completing the internships. Dean Abernathy responded by sharing that the system for collecting this information is gathered primarily through exit interviews with students. The institutions have zero credit hour internship programs to help track this further. The salaries for engineering internships are very high, according to Dean Abernathy, often between 70-80% of the salary of an entry-level engineer, especially following the student's junior year. She reiterated that the experience students gain is critical to their success after graduation. Dean Abernathy also noted that many students participate in internships while in school to prevent accruing student debt upon graduation.

Board Chair Lautenbach encouraged the SUS institutions to consider formalizing an internship or co-op requirement as part of the degree programs. Dean Abernathy stated that, in most cases, it appears as though 80-90% of students are completing internships. She said they may need to be part of the graduation requirements for the degree programs. Board Chair Lautenbach remarked that this is a wonderful opportunity for students, and the institutions should consider making this a required component of the degree. Dean Abernathy indicated that this is how many of the programs are already structured, but indicated that formalizing the internship requirement may provide an additional benefit to students. Board Chair Lautenbach commented that this may also help to improve the five-year graduation rates.

Governor Scott asked if Dean Abernathy would be able to bring a recommended draft of internship programs and credit hours that could be implemented across the system. Dean Abernathy indicated that she would be able to provide to the Committee documentation from some of the institutions offering summer bridge programs.

Chair Tripp followed up inquiring if location played any role in student success in finding internship opportunities. Dean Abernathy stated that this had not been her experience. Engineering students often have multiple internship offers; however, not all of the opportunities may be local, so the student may need to travel.

Governor Stermon inquired if students outside of the University of Florida have the same opportunities. Dean Abernathy noted that each institution serves the local and regional community and that there are typically strong ties to local employers.

President Avent stated that students at Florida Polytechnic University also do very well when seeking internship opportunities, and all students at Florida Polytechnic are required to seek internship opportunities.

## 10. Academic and Student Affairs Updates

### A. SUS Council of Academic Vice Presidents (CAVP)

Dr. McRorie provided the following updates.

- The provosts have been working all summer to improve student success across the system. They expect retention and graduation rates to improve system-wide.
- The provosts are also working to meet the metrics of the strategic plan for the Board.
- The members of CAVP are working diligently on mathematics innovation.
- The provosts have also been engaged in resiliency projects to respond to emergency situations and to develop best practices when these situations arise across the entirety of the institution. CAVP will launch a website with the best practices very soon.

### B. SUS Council of Student Affairs (CSA)

Dr. Hudson provided the following updates.

- Dr. Hudson thanked Dr. Corey King for his leadership of CSA.
- CSA received an overview, in conjunction with the Council of University Police Chiefs, of crisis communication detailing some of the knowledge gained from past crises. The Council of University Police Chiefs will meet with the Council of Emergency Managers to continue this discussion. Dr. Hudson also thanked Chair Tripp for facilitating this discussion.
- Dr. Hudson also noted the mental health needs of students continue to be a priority. Dr. Hudson stated that all SUS institutions are working to implement Kognito, an online platform for their faculty and staff in fall 2019.
- CSA, CAVP, and the Council of Human Resource Directors (CHRD) have discussed strategies to ensure all faculty and staff complete the Kognito training beginning in January 2021 at all SUS institutions. CSA will continue to collaborate with CAVP and CHRD on this initiative, and they will continue to update the Board on the progress and provide data once implementation is complete.
- CSA is continuing to work with Board staff on a mental health counseling plan, which will be presented to the Board in January 2020.
- The Hazing Prevention Update was last presented by Dr. King at the January 2019 Board of Governor's meeting, and CSA will continue with the update at the

January 2020 Board of Governors meeting. CSA will work to gather more data and look at best practices to increase student participation in the effort.

- CSA and the Florida Student Association have had ongoing conversations about specific topics of interest to SUS students.
- CSA elected a new Vice-Chair, Dr. Mitch Cordova at Florida Gulf Coast University, who will serve in that capacity for the next two years.

Chair Tripp thanked Dr. Hudson for his help to advise the committee in responding to a situation at the University of Central Florida, and how the response and campus security could be further improved in the future.

### C. Florida Student Association (FSA)

Governor Johnson provided the following updates.

- FSA has had two meetings since the June 2019 Board of Governors meeting.
- The first meeting occurred on July 21, 2019, at the University of Central Florida (UCF) where Ms. Kristin Whitaker provided information regarding the upcoming legislative session. Additionally, the President and Vice President for Student Development at UCF attended the meeting as well as Representative Anna Eskamani.
- On August 10, 2019, FSA met at the University of South Florida. Provost Wilcox attended the meeting. FSA was able to work with Representative Mariano, who provided information regarding the legislative session. A representative(s) from the Florida College Access Network (FCAN) also attended this meeting. FCAN has been working with FSA to gather data regarding the SUS.
- The next FSA meeting will occur on September 21, 2019, at the University of North Florida.
- The priorities for FSA this upcoming year include textbook affordability, food and housing insecurity, providing sexual assault nurses on campuses, and mental health.
- FSA has been working closely with CSA to help gather data on food insecurity and homelessness, as well as what the campuses are doing to address these issues.
- The Rally in Tally event will occur on November 13, 2019.

## 11. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Tripp recognized Governor Cerio, who stated that the Board recognizes the good work of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering and asked to hear more from the institutions, with the Chair's permission regarding the work of the college. He stated that he thought there were outstanding questions from Board members.

President Thrasher shared that during the 2014 legislative session, there was an attempt to split the college between the two institutions. The initiative did not pass during the session; instead, the joint management committee for the college was created. This committee includes the Chancellor, both university presidents, as well as

additional university personnel. The committee determined that FSU manages the financial resources for the college, but both institutions have contributed to the financial resources of the college.

President Thrasher also recognized the outstanding work of Dean Gibson to bring in new faculty, recruit an extremely resilient student body, and build relationships with companies who recruit students from the college. President Thrasher shared that the Legislative Budget Request is not to do more than the college is already accomplishing, but is an effort to sustain the ongoing good work of the college and provide an opportunity for future growth. He shared that students in the college are receiving outstanding internship and job opportunities. President Thrasher encouraged the committee members to consider supporting the request. He assured the Committee that, if the request is approved, the funds will be scrutinized and used appropriately to hire quality faculty, ensuring that the college is able to continue on the rise to excellence.

Chair Tripp asked President Robinson to comment on the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering's Legislative Budget Request. President Robinson shared that he agreed with all of President Thrasher's comments. President Robinson shared that he has seen the evolution of the college, and he believes the partnership is working. He also emphasized the request will be an investment in the future of the college.

President Robinson also commended Dean Gibson's work to build relationships with employers, including companies like Google and the Dow Chemical Company. The employer relationships have helped to provide internship opportunities for students. He noted that faculty are being recruited away from the college, so the request is key in retaining faculty and assisting to enhance the overall experience for the students in the college. President Robinson also asked the committee to reconsider the Legislative Budget Request.

Governor Johnson shared that the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering is very involved in the local community. She shared that some students attend the college due in large part to some of the summer camp opportunities they offer to high school students. Governor Johnson also agreed that the request is an important investment in the college. FSA would also support this request, according to Governor Johnson.

Governor Stermon pointed out that the college has a 93.7% five-year graduation rate.

Governor Morton shared that he agreed with Governor Huizinga's comments concerning the athletic program at FAMU. He shared that it is important for the Board to consider where the funds from the request will be allocated, and the institutions should consider priorities when using the funding.

Governor Stermon shared that he concurred with Governor Morton's comments regarding the FAMU athletic program. He inquired if there was an opportunity for compromise and if the Board could be leaders in that conversation.

Governor Cerio shared that he appreciated the conversations from both presidents, and he has a better appreciation for the recurring nature of the funding in the request. He also stated, if another the motion was made to support the Legislative Budget Request for the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, he would second the motion.

Chair Tripp asked if there were any further comments.

Governor Scott commented that the committee may consider combining the request with the ongoing discussions surrounding the restricting of engineering programs across the system. He also suggested combining the request with the presentation and approval of the follow-up report on SUS colleges of engineering at the October 2019 Board of Governors Meeting. Governor Scott also shared that he was open to voting again on the Legislative Budget Request for the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering if Chair Tripp decided to do so.

Chair Tripp indicated he would prefer to vote solely on the Legislative Budget Request for the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. He reminded the committee of the history of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering and shared that the leadership committee has been instrumental in the success of the college. Chair Tripp also emphasized the outstanding work of Dean Gibson and his management of the college.

Chair Tripp asked for a motion to approve the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering's \$6,511,000 Legislative Budget Request and forward to the Budget and Finance Committee for consideration. Governor Johnson moved to approve, and Governor Cerio seconded the motion.

Governor Felton stated that he would like to hear further from Governor Stermon regarding his thoughts on the request following the concerns shared by Governor Morton and Governor Huizenga. Governor Stermon commented that the concerns were valid, but he also felt that there was an opportunity for compromise to address the concerns without killing the request for the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. Governor Stermon stated that the Board might consider further clarification of the use of the funding if approved.

Chair Tripp noted that, with regard to the FAMU Athletics, the Board attempted to address the situation several years ago, but he did not think there would be much of an opportunity at that time to reduce the debt due to the rising cost of athletics. He expressed concern that FAMU may not be able to raise enough revenue to offset the debt of the athletic program. Chair Tripp also noted that many of the institutions are operating their athletic programs on a very narrow profit margin. He indicated that while he felt further discussion regarding the FAMU athletic debt is warranted, he felt that the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering needed special attention, and separate consideration from the athletic program because the two programs are not connected. Additionally, Chair Tripp reminded the committee of the good work of the college.

Following the discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Having no further business, Chair Tripp adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

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Norman D. Tripp, Chair

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Jeremy M. Hudak  
Assistant Director for  
Academic Affairs