

MINUTES  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA  
January 27, 2021

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

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Darlene Jordan convened the Academic and Student Affairs meeting at 11:01 a.m. with the following members present: Governors Lamb, Frost, Haddock, Schneider, Scott, and Self. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of November 5, 2020, Committee Meeting

Chair Jordan asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2020, committee meeting. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Lamb seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer's Report

Chair Jordan recognized the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Christy England, to give an update regarding activities of the Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) unit.

Dr. England reported that ASA staff have already reviewed several bills for the upcoming legislative session. Also, she, Mr. Roger Strickland, and Ms. Emily Sikes have met with education committee staff in both the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate to provide information regarding academic and Florida workforce degree alignment and programs of strategic emphasis.

Dr. England noted that ASA staff continues to work regularly with Enterprise Florida to provide them information on different State University System (SUS) program areas and initiatives. ASA staff also continues to meet quarterly with the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO).

She shared that Mr. Strickland continues to attend monthly meetings with the inter-agency CIP-SOC Working Group. This group includes representation from the Florida Department of Education (DOE), DEO, and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.

She added that ASA staff continues to work with the DOE Office of Articulation and the Division of Florida Colleges on the Reverse Transfer Agreement, which is required by statute.

Dr. England also shared several updates related to financial aid. In the fall of 2020, 313 SUS students with disabilities received the Johnson Scholarship. The total amount disbursed to scholars for the fall semester was just shy of \$500,000. During the spring and summer of 2020, 87 Johnson Scholars graduated with baccalaureate degrees in various disciplines, including engineering, computer science, biology, education, criminal justice, and business.

Additionally, Dr. England shared that during the 2019-20 Academic Year, the Helios Education Foundation's First Generation Scholarship Program awarded over half a million dollars to 223 scholars.

Regarding academic programs, Dr. England shared that the academic affairs staff, including Dr. Disraelly Cruz, Mr. Jeremy Hudak, and Ms. Brittanian Gamble, were working diligently to process proposals and program actions.

#### 4. Postsecondary Credit for Prior Military Training, Courses, and Occupations

Chair Jordan said the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of the Policy Regarding the Evaluation and Awarding of Postsecondary Credit for Prior Military Training, Courses, and Occupations. She recognized Dr. England to give the presentation.

Dr. England explained that the 2020 Legislature amended Section 1004.096, Florida Statutes, to require the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, to create a process for the uniform awarding of the postsecondary credit or career education clock hours for military experience or training. This process would create a single list to ensure that all Florida public postsecondary institutions were uniformly awarding credit for prior military training.

Dr. England reported that the Postsecondary Education for Certain Military Personnel Workgroup was established to develop a policy. This group consisted of 13 members, including four academic affairs representatives from SUS institutions, four academic affairs representatives from the Florida College System, two faculty representatives from district career centers, and two representatives appointed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The workgroup produced a recommended policy and procedure for the evaluation and awarding of postsecondary credit for prior military experience. The policy was presented to the Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) on November 19, 2020, and to the State Board of Education on January 20, 2021.

The statewide workgroup recommended a two-phase process for developing a list of course equivalencies. Phase 1 would involve postsecondary institutions identifying the most common courses for which students have historically received credit due to military training. As part of this process, the ACC and faculty discipline committees would review these courses along with the equivalency guide from the American Council of Education (ACE) Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Forces to develop a statewide list. The list will then come before the State Board of Education and Board of Governors for consideration and approval.

For Phase 2 of the process, the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs will identify the most commonly completed military trainings. Like Phase 1, the list will be reviewed by the ACC and faculty discipline committees to develop a statewide list. The ACE equivalency guide will also be used in this process. The list will be brought to both State Board of Education and Board of Governors for consideration and approval.

She shared several highlights from the guidelines for evaluating military credit. First, all military personnel, regardless of status with the military, would be eligible to receive credits. Institutions would determine the maximum number of credits that could be transferred based on requirements from their accrediting body. Any credits that were awarded through this process would not count toward a student's excess credit hour calculation. Additionally, each institution would need to develop policies that would be in alignment with the process. Dr. England also shared that staff were working on revising Board of Governors Regulation 6.013, Military Veterans and Active Duty, ensuring that it will also align with the new process and requirements.

The two phases for developing the course equivalencies list is expected to take most of the calendar year. She noted that the initial list might be ready as early as November 2021, but the process could take until January 2022.

Chair Jordan asked for a motion to approve the Policy Regarding the Evaluation and Awarding of Postsecondary Credit for Prior Military Training, Courses, and Occupations. Governor Haddock moved to approve, Governor Lamb seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### 5. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation, 6.006 Accelerated Mechanisms

Chair Jordan said the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of a Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.006, Accelerated Mechanisms. She then recognized Dr. Christy England to give the presentation.

Dr. England began her presentation by providing background on Board of Governors Regulation 6.006. Beginning in sixth grade, qualified students in Florida have the opportunity to accelerate their time to degree through accelerated mechanisms, which

include performance on various examinations, participation in dual enrollment, or demonstration of learning through recognized training or experiences.

The proposed amendment to subsection (2)(b) recognizes the possibility of earning academic credit through skills and competencies gained through military experience. This amendment aligns with the requirements specified in section 1004.096, Florida Statutes, which was modified by the 2020 Legislature and required the development of a uniform procedure for awarding credit for military experiences. It is anticipated that this process will culminate with the ACC Credit for Military Equivalency List, which will be presented for approval to the Board of Governors and State Board of Education.

Additionally, the proposed amendment to the dual enrollment section provides specific guidance regarding initial eligibility requirements for traditional K-12 and homeschool students. The amendment also clarifies institutional responsibilities for providing instructional materials. She explained that these proposed changes would align the regulation to section 1007.271, Florida Statutes, and ensure equitable treatment for students seeking dual enrollment opportunities.

Chair Jordan asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.006, Accelerated Mechanisms. Governor Schneider moved to approve, Governor Lamb seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### 6. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.007, Articulation

Chair Jordan stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of a Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.007, Articulation. She then recognized Dr. England to give the presentation.

Dr. England explained that the recently passed Board regulation codified articulation practices such as common prerequisites, general education core, and accelerated mechanisms. However, since its adoption, Board staff identified an error in subsection (3)(f)(3). The regulation should state that in their final semester at their Florida College System institution, Associate of Arts transfer students are permitted to continue earning additional credits towards their baccalaureate degree as long as such credit does not conflict with the SUS institution's residency requirements.

Chair Jordan asked for a motion to approve the Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.007, Articulation. Governor Lamb moved to approve, Governor Frost seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously

#### 7. Academic Program Items

- A. Request for Limited Access Status for the B.A. and B.S. in Biological and Physical Sciences, CIP 30.0101, at Florida Atlantic University,

Chair Jordan recognized Dr. Disraelly Cruz to present a request from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) for limited access status for its B.A. and B.S. in Biological and Physical Sciences, CIP 30.0101.

Dr. Cruz stated that Board of Governors Regulation 8.013 gives the Board the authority to declare a bachelor's program as limited access if the program satisfies one of three conditions. These conditions are if the number of students who meet all the requirements for admission would exceed the current program's resources and capacity, if special skills or talents are required to be successful in the program, and if a student must demonstrate higher academic achievement to be successful in the program.

She explained that FAU's program met the first condition. Since all students admitted into the program needed to complete a senior honors thesis, the Wilke's Honors College needed to limit admissions to avoid straining faculty resources.

Governor Lamb inquired about the steps FAU leadership took to ensure that access to the program would remain equitable and would not disproportionately impact underrepresented groups. FAU Provost, Dr. Bret Danilowicz, explained that FAU was one of the top-50 most diverse institutions in the United States. He explained that college was dividing up an already existing and diverse program into separate Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science programs. FAU has taken multiple steps to ensure diversity and monitor existing programs to ensure they are diverse and recruiting equitably.

Governor Self asked about the number of students in the program working on a thesis and how making the requirement mandatory for all students would impact faculty workload. Provost Danilowicz clarified that all students currently enrolled in the college must complete a research thesis. He added that the thesis requirement was the driver behind requesting limited access because of the student-to-faculty ratio. Governor Self encouraged FAU to consider having strong oversight when students interact with community partners to ensure that the interaction contributes to the learning environment.

Chair Jordan asked for a motion to approve the request for Limited Access Status for the B.A. and B.S. in Biological and Physical Sciences, CIP 30.0101, at Florida Atlantic University. Governor Lamb moved to approve, Governor Haddock seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

## 8. Student Wellness Metrics

Chair Jordan recognized Dr. England to provide a presentation regarding the System-wide data on the student wellness metrics collected through the American College Health Association's National Health Assessment administered in spring 2020.

Dr. England explained that on January 25, 2018, Board of Governors former Chair Ned Lautenbach established the Drugs, Alcohol, and Mental Health Task Force. The task force was charged with reviewing evidence to document the most critical drugs, alcohol, and mental health issues facing students in the SUS. The task force was also charged with identifying best practices to inform the development of System-wide recommendations for effectively addressing the most critical issues and determining resources required to implement System-wide solutions. In August 2019, the Board of Governors approved the Drugs, Alcohol, and Mental Health Task Force Final Report. The task force recommendations included tracking student wellness, drug and alcohol use, and mental health; implementing a mental health literacy training program, and using the American College Health Association's National College Health Assessment to collect student data on key metrics. She shared that the focus of the presentation will look at the institutions' data collected using the National College Health Assessment.

She explained that the National College Health Assessment is a nationally recognized research survey that collects data about students' health habits, behaviors, and perceptions on various topics including alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, mental health, weight nutrition, and exercise, sexual health, and personal safety and violence. The Council for Student Affairs (CSA) helped the task force identify specific metrics that could be used to assess drug and alcohol use and mental health issues among students and evaluate the impact of the system initiatives over time. The metrics identified include the impact of alcohol use, drug use, and mental health issues on academic performance in the past 12 months; the use of alcohol, marijuana & other drugs in the past three months; the most common mental health issues (e.g., anxiety, depression, addiction); and the extent to which students seek treatment for mental health issues in the past 12 months. Dr. England shared that findings represented responses from students at the ten institutions that administered the assessment during the spring 2020 semester. Florida Polytechnic University and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University were not able to administer the assessment due to COVID-19. She noted that this first report would serve as a benchmark for future assessments.

The first metric presented was academic impediments experienced during the past 12 months. She explained that an academic impediment was something that negatively impacted student performance in a class or delayed student progress towards a degree. The most common academic impediments reported by students in the System included anxiety, stress, depression, and sleep difficulties.

The next metric was self-reported substance use in the three months prior to completing the survey. More than two-thirds of those surveyed reported consuming alcoholic beverages in the past three months. Less than half of those surveyed reported using cannabis, which includes marijuana, weed, hash, edibles, and vaped cannabis. Less than one-third of students surveyed reported using tobacco, which includes the use of e-cigarettes and a vape. Lastly, less than 7% of survey respondents reported using prescription medication, including Adderall, without a prescription.

Dr. England then presented metrics related to mental health. She indicated that students reported experiencing moderate or serious psychological distress. Also, in the 30 days prior to completing the assessment, students reported moderate or high stress.

The final metric focused on the utilization of student mental health services. Dr. England reported that survey responses indicated that many students had received psychological or mental health services in the past 12 months. The majority of those students received services through the campus counseling center. Dr. England explained that these numbers do not necessarily represent an increasing problem, nor should they cause concern. She explained it is highly likely that the numbers were a result of numerous ongoing efforts at each institution to remove the stigma associated with seeking treatment for mental health issues. It is also important to note that these numbers included students with ongoing and serious issues such as depression and those students who may have sought temporary assistance to help with test anxiety or relationship issues.

Dr. England explained that CSA remains committed to continuously improving student wellbeing and partnering with the Board of Governors. As reported in the November 2020 meeting, there would be continued implementation and monitoring of strategies designed to reduce student substance use, promote student mental health and minimize academic impediments related to substance use and mental health issues. She added that planning is currently underway for a student wellness summit later this year. CSA will also continue to use the key metrics presented to evaluate the impact of SUS strategies, with a goal to provide an update every two years once all institutions have implemented the National College Health Assessment.

Chair Jordan thanked Dr. England for her presentation and acknowledged the work of Governor Lautenbach on his vision and efforts in this area.

Governor Schneider noted the effectiveness of the student counseling and mental health efforts. She inquired if there was a need for the development of a long-term plan to ensure that students continue to get needed help given the workload of the counseling centers. Dr. England explained that, prior to the task force, institutions were required to develop three-year plans to improve access to counseling services and demonstrate that they could meet student demand. The institutions completed the implementation of these plans in 2019, and there have been ongoing efforts to maintain and increase counseling centers' resources.

Dr. William Hudson Jr., CSA Chair, commented that student mental health is a major focus for CSA. During COVID-19, many counseling centers implemented tele-counseling services to ensure students continued to have access to these services. CSA will continue to monitor student-to-counselor ratios to ensure they are consistent with accreditation standards.

## 9. Hazing Prevention Update

Chair Jordan recognized Dr. Hudson to provide an update regarding System-wide hazing prevention efforts.

Dr. Hudson shared that in February 2012, CSA developed a System-wide list of hazing prevention practices focused on reducing hazing. These practices included anti-hazing websites, 24/7 physical and online reporting systems, programming and training, and disseminating hazing policies and statutes.

CSA also began coordinating and holding an annual Hazing Prevention Summit to present and discuss current hazing research and campus strategies. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 Summit was canceled; however, the summit will resume post COVID-19.

Dr. Hudson explained that in April 2015, SUS institutions launched AliveTek, an online program focused on hazing prevention education. As of the committee meeting presentation, 182,207 students have completed the hazing prevention module. Dr. Hudson provided data to demonstrate the effectiveness of the hazing prevention module, which included increased knowledge, increased willingness to report hazing, and decreased inclination to participate in hazing. Campus efforts to improve training participation include requiring participation from clubs and organizations, onboarding new students during orientation, and campus safety presentations.

Lastly, Dr. Hudson provided the annual update of campus hazing incidents. According to Board of Governors Regulation 6.021, Hazing Prohibited, institutions are required to annually submit a report of hazing incidences that resulted in a student, student group, or organization being held responsible for violating the university's anti-hazing policy. Dr. Hudson explained that the number of occurrences in the 2019-20 Academic Year was similar to the previous year. During the 2019-2020 Academic Year, no individual or group was found responsible for more than a single hazing incident.

Chair Jordan thanked Dr. Hudson for his presentation and the efforts of CSA in Hazing Prevention.

## 10. Academic and Student Affairs Updates

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

Chair Jordan recognized Dr. Kenneth Furton, Chair of the CAVP, who provided the following updates.

- CAVP continues to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on students and the learning environment, as well as strategies to mitigate those impacts.
- The transition of the Complete Florida Plus program from UWF to FSU has been completed.



- CAVP continues to discuss ways to increase participation in Kognito training.
- The provosts continue to discuss ways to increase more on-campus learning opportunities. Most of the universities have seen an increase in traditional or hybrid courses in the spring 2021 semester. Additionally, the impact of remote courses continues to be assessed. Institutions are now beginning to discuss the summer and fall 2021 course schedules.

#### B. Council for Student Affairs (CSA)

Chair Jordan recognized Dr. William Hudson Jr., Chair of the CSA, who provided the following updates.

- CSA continues to respond to COVID-19 and ensure the continuity of student services such as counseling services, student services, and career services.
- CSA also continues to engage in activities to promote adherence to COVID-19 protocols both on and off campus.
- All institutions continue to collaborate to respond to the challenges of COVID-19.

#### C. Florida Student Association (FSA)

Chair Jordan recognized Governor Schneider, Chair of the FSA, who provided the following updates.

- FSA continues to support the notion of moving toward a test-optional admissions structure.
- Individual Student Government Associations (SGA) are also continuing their work.
  - FAMU and NCF are preparing for Black History Month on their campuses.
  - FAU is working on a test preparation initiative.
  - UCF, in collaboration with Odyssey Ambassadors are preparing for the Women's Empowerment Gala.
  - Florida Poly's SGA is working with the institutional administration to discuss the needs of faculty and students when repopulating the campus.
  - UNF and UF hosted their annual Mental Health Awareness Weeks.
  - USF is working to establish an alumni mentorship program for students.
- System-wide, FSA continues to plan the annual Rally in Tally event to lobby for legislative priorities, which include the following.
  - A sexual assault legislative package currently being pursued by UCF's SGA
  - The SUS legislative budget request
  - Food and housing insecurities

- Bright Futures

D. Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS)

Chair Jordan recognized Governor William Self to provide an update on the ACFS, who provided the following update.

- ACFS members continue to discuss the following.
  - COVID-19 testing and tracing for faculty and students
  - The institutional reopening plans
  - Vaccination plans
  - Budgets

11. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Jordan adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

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Darlene Jordan, Chair

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Jeremy M. Hudak  
Assistant Director for Academic Affairs