

MINUTES  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS 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 Darlene Jordan convened the Academic and Student Affairs meeting at 1:05 p.m. with the following members present: Governors Cerio, Felton, Frost, Johnson, Scott, and Tripp. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of March 25, 2020, Committee Meeting

Governor Jordan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2020, Committee meeting. Governor Tripp moved to approve, Governor Frost seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Academic and Student Affairs Updates

A. SUS Council of Academic Vice Presidents (CAVP)

Chair Jordan recognized Dr. Sally McRorie, Chair of the CAVP, who provided the following updates.

- All of the SUS Institutions met their academic plans during the spring 2020 semester.
- The month of March consisted of emergency planning in response to COVID-19. The primary focus was on the transition from face-to-face to online and remote instruction.
- Training was developed to assist faculty with the transition to teaching online and remotely.
- Every SUS Institution has worked to provide safe and effective instruction to students during this time.
- Now, CAVP is focusing efforts on assisting faculty to further hone their skills for online and remote instruction as the institutions prepare for the upcoming online-only summer session in the coming weeks.
- During the summer, every institution will offer additional training for faculty in teaching methods for synchronous, asynchronous, and mixed-mode online learning as well as delivery and assessment methods.

- The Provosts have worked with the Librarians as well as others on their campus to lend lab equipment, webcams, and other technical assistance to students without such equipment.
- SUS institutions have also purchased additional laptops to meet the needs of their students.
- Each institution has raised money through their foundation to assist students and staff as much as possible.
- CAVP is working to support current and incoming students through collaboration with faculty, staff, the local Departments of Health, and medical personnel.
- Dr. McRorie commended the work of all CAVP members.

Governor Lydecker thanked Dr. McRorie for her report and asked her to provide an update regarding how the institutions are working to support faculty who are at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19. He also asked if there was a difference in teaching techniques for the at-risk populations versus the other populations.

Dr. McRorie shared that all SUS institutions are teaching remotely this summer, with no students on campus. Institutions plan to safely reintroduce students to the campuses in the fall. Institutions are working with students with disabilities using additional features in technology such as Zoom, which offers a feature to ensure that all website materials are ADA accessible. Campus offices that work with students with disabilities are still open. All of the institutions are working to ensure that students with disabilities are supported during this time.

Dr. McRorie shared that the institutions are working with faculty members who may be at an elevated risk. During the spring, some faculty members chose to use the technology and resources available in classroom facilities to continue teaching remotely. Most faculty taught remotely during the spring semester. SUS institutions are continuing to encourage social distancing. University administrators are actively meeting to discuss and plan the next phase to ensure that the needs of both students and faculty are met. Many institutions have a high number of faculty members who are at an elevated risk of contracting COVID-19. Institutions are continuing to offer professional development to these faculty, as many of them have never taught online. The focus of the training is to ensure that quality online instruction is offered.

Institutions are working with anyone who feels they are unable to return to campus. This includes a plan for self-identification of those faculty and staff members to ensure everyone is able to meet their assignment of responsibilities in a very positive and effective way, and without putting anyone at risk.

Governor Lydecker expressed concerns that faculty members at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19 may feel compelled to return to campus before it is advisable for them to do so. He expressed that SUS institutions should not request at-risk faculty to return to campus before it is safe to do so. Governor Lydecker indicated that, based on Dr. McRorie's response, it appears as though SUS institutions are being very thoughtful and cautious with regard to this population. Dr. McRorie affirmed that this is the case at Florida State University, and across the SUS. Finding faculty who are at elevated risks will be accomplished through a self-identification process to make sure every faculty member feels safe, recognized, and valued. Dr. McRorie also shared that there are multiple ways faculty members can fulfill their contract without putting themselves at risk.

Governor Jordan thanked Dr. McRorie for her response and asked if there were any additional questions or comments from the Committee. None were expressed. Dr. McRorie shared that CAVP meets regularly and is happy to discuss any questions from the Committee.

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

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

- CSA continues to meet weekly to discuss how to adapt and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Shifts have occurred in some campus services such as Counseling and Psychological Services, Housing and Residence Life, Engagement Services, Enrollment Services, Student Health, and Career Services as well as other student services.
- Universities have made use of technology platforms, including social media, to reach out to students.
- Additionally, campuses have had to shift to delivering student services through all available means. They have included platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Canvas, Facebook, Zoom, and other social media platforms.
- Some SUS campuses have had difficulty with the transition because it has caused campuses to close spaces where students met, engaged, exercised, relaxed, or studied. However, the universities adjusted quickly and transitioned away from face-to-face to online delivery of the services.
- System-wide collaboration with all SUS institutions facilitated this transition.

- The Divisions of Student Affairs continue to support students through creative uses of technology, including virtual events and activities such as telehealth, SGA elections, new student orientation, student training and other activities.
- As the semester closes, plans began in April to continue social distancing while still providing student support services.
- CSA is working with CAVP concerning service delivery during the summer and after COVID-19.
- CSA receives weekly updates from Board of Governors' staff. Dr. Hudson thanked Vice Chancellor England and Dr. Lynn Nelson, Director of Student Affairs, for updating the CSA weekly.

Chair Jordan thanked Dr. Hudson for his report and asked the Committee members if there were any questions or comments. None were expressed.

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

Chair Jordan recognized Governor Zenani D. Johnson, Chair of the FSA, who provided the following updates.

- On behalf of FSA, Governor Johnson expressed thanks to all of the students and university administrators across the SUS for quickly adapting during these unprecedented times.
- Governor Johnson also thanked the Board of Governors and Board staff for their efforts.
- The Florida student government bodies came together to support students' mental, physical, and financial health.
  - The University of North Florida (UNF) Student Government contributed \$250,000 to the student emergency relief fund.
  - Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) and Florida Polytechnic University also contributed to relief funds on their campuses.
  - FAMU Student Government also provided grants to students in need who were returning home due to COVID-19.
  - The UNF Food Pantry continues to maintain a list of students who are in need.
  - The University of Florida Student Government is providing \$500,000 in reserves to help students pay rent as the result of financial difficulties during COVID-19.
- Governor Johnson acknowledged that the 2019-2020 FSA Board year is coming to an end and provided a brief overview of the year.

- FSA held two “Rally in Tally” events, as well as multiple “Day at the Capital” events during the 2019-2020 Legislative Session.
  - Primary issues for FSA were student homelessness and student food insecurity, which were some of the main points of HB 3419.
  - HB 3419 was spearheaded by FSA, and many of the goals were incorporated into the state CARES Act and State Carry Forward policies.
  - FSA has built successful partnerships with stakeholders around the country, including AT&T, The Education Trust, The Florida College Access Network, and the National Campus Leadership Council.
  - FSA has also held a successful remote leadership transition meeting and will elect a new Governor on May 23, 2020.
- Governor Johnson expressed thanks for the time that she served on the Board.

Chair Jordan thanked Governor Johnson for her report and for her time, commitment, and involvement with the Board of Governors. She asked the Committee if there were any questions or comments for Governor Johnson.

#### 4. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

In response to Dr. Hudson’s report, Board Chair Kitson expressed his thanks for all of the institutions coming together and making the transition to remote learning in response to COVID-19. He also expressed his gratitude for Governor Johnson’s service to the Board.

Having no further business, Chair Jordan adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

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Darlene Jordan, Chair

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Assistant Director for  
Academic Affairs