

MINUTES  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA  
November 5, 2020

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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 10:52 a.m. with the following members present: Governors Lamb, Cerio, Corcoran, Frost, Schneider, Scott, Self, and Tripp. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of September 16, 2020, Committee Meeting

Chair Jordan asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2020, committee meeting. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Tripp 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 shared that staff in the Office of Academic and Student Affairs are well and keeping up with all the System's important work. Dr. England also recognized the outstanding performance of the entire ASA staff.

Dr. England provided an update on the implementation of House Bill 171, which was signed by Governor DeSantis on June 23, 2020. This bill amends section 1004.096, Florida Statutes, and requires the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, to create a process for the uniform awarding of postsecondary credit or career education clock hours to certain service members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces. The Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC), chaired by Dr. William Hudson Jr. from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, was assigned with the convening of a workgroup to develop the process and implement the legislation. The workgroup has approved a draft recommendation that will go to the ACC. The recommendation outlined a process for developing the course equivalencies. Dr. England thanked Dr. Hudson and the university representatives on the workgroup for their efforts to ensure that the needs of student veterans are met. She added that the final recommendation is expected to come back to the committee in January for consideration for approval and

will also go to the State Board of Education at the same time. Following the approval of that recommendation, the workgroup will begin developing lists of equivalencies for the State University System (SUS) institutions and the Florida colleges to use for awarding credit. These lists will come to this committee and the State Board of Education to consider for approval late next year.

Dr. England then reported that section 1004.085, Florida Statutes, requires the Board office to compile the Textbooks and Instructional Materials Affordability Report for the System. The report must address the selection process for course materials, specific initiatives to reduce costs, the review of institution policies for implementing the posting of course materials, and the number of course sections in compliance with the requirement. Dr. England stated that each university submitted a report, approved by their respective Boards of Trustees, on time. Board staff completed the Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability System Report, which was sent to each member of the Board prior to the November 1 deadline. Dr. England also informed the Board that since this information has been collected for several years, Board staff will reconvene a Textbook Affordability Workgroup during the upcoming year to talk about lessons learned and how to improve data collection and reporting.

Dr. England apprised the Board of Mr. Roger Strickland's presentations of the Baccalaureate Follow-Up Study report to the System career center directors and admissions directors following the presentation to the Board's Taskforce on Academic and Workforce Alignment. The report was well received by both groups and each group plans to share the information with prospective and current students.

#### 4. Student Wellness Dashboard Project Update

Chair Jordan then recognized Dr. England and Dr. William Hudson Jr., Chair of the Council for Student Affairs (CSA), to provide an update on the Student Wellness Dashboard Project.

Dr. England provided a brief overview of the work of the Drugs, Alcohol, and Mental Health Task Force, including the charge of the Task Force, the critical issues identified in the System, and the final recommendations. On January 25, 2018, former Board Chair Ned Lautenbach established the Drugs, Alcohol, and Mental Health Task Force and asked former Governor Fernando Valverde to lead the effort with the engagement of the chairs of System institutions' Boards of Trustees. The Drugs, Alcohol, and Mental Health Task Force was charged with reviewing evidence to document the most critical drug, alcohol, and mental health issues facing students in the System. 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.

Between March 2018 and March 2019, campus experts delivered presentations to the Task Force and reported national and state-level data related to student use and abuse of drugs and alcohol as well as the status of student mental health. During this time,

three critical issues emerged as the highest priorities for the System because of their direct and adverse impact on student academic performance. First was the need to prevent, diagnose, and treat misuse of alcohol and drugs. Next was the need to prevent poor mental health when possible and to provide access to treatment as needed. Finally, the Task Force identified a need to coordinate care for students across the institution and in the community since the universities have limited resources for treating students with severe substance abuse issues and students with severe mental health issues.

The Task Force also heard presentations on evidence-based research and national best practices regarding education, prevention, treatment, and continuum of care relative to student wellness. As a result of the work of the Task Force, System institutions have been working to implement a variety of solutions to address the critical issues that were identified. The implementation and achievement of the System-wide goals and initiatives are tracked using a dashboard.

In June 2018, the Dashboard Project was initiated by the Task Force in collaboration with the CSA. The dashboard establishes a framework that includes System-level goals and initiatives that address student wellness, drug and alcohol use, and mental health. Updates on the development of the dashboard were presented at each subsequent Task Force meeting until the Task Force completed their work in August 2019.

In addition to the ten initiatives in the dashboard, there were three other initiatives recommended in the final report. One strategy that was identified that would impact student substance abuse and mental health was the implementation of a mental health literacy program, Kognito, to train faculty and staff to increase awareness and build their knowledge and skills related to mental health and suicide prevention. This training program was implemented in collaboration with the Council for Academic Vice Presidents, the CSA, and the human resource directors beginning in fall 2019. As of the November meeting, 50,000 faculty and staff across the state university system have been trained so far. The committee will hear another update at the March 2021 Board meeting.

In addition, the System was nominated for and received an award from Kognito for *Excellence in Mental Health Literacy*. Dr. Hudson and Dr. England attended a virtual award ceremony on October 6 to accept the award on behalf of the System. The System was selected to receive the award because of the implementation efforts, effectiveness, and utilization of the training platform. Compared to other states and systems that are using Kognito, the System was recognized as a leader and a model for others to follow.

A second recommendation from the Task Force report was to use metrics for monitoring student mental health along with drug and alcohol use across all 12 institutions. To do this, CSA identified specific metrics from the American College Health Association's

National College Health Assessment that could be used to assess drug and alcohol use and mental health issues among students and the impact of the System's initiatives over time. CSA recommended using the following metrics, which would be available for all SUS institutions every two years beginning in 2020.

- Frequency of use of alcohol, marijuana & other drugs in the past three months
- Most common mental health issues as reported by students
- Treatment of mental health issues in the past 12 months
- Impact of alcohol use, drug use, & mental health issues on academic performance over a 12 month

Due to COVID, some System institutions were unable to administer the assessment, and others had the implementation of the assessment disrupted. Board staff are in the process of following up with the institutions to collect the information that is available from the assessment and will report back to the committee in January.

Dr. England concluded her portion of the presentation by providing an update on the third recommendation from the Task Force, to convene a biannual summit focused on student wellness to ensure ongoing sharing and implementation of best practices across the System. During the summit, each institution will be able to share data and information from the dashboard, the National College Health Assessment, Kognito, and other sources to inform further improvements in addressing the most critical needs of our students. System institutions will also have the opportunity to share success stories and lessons learned. The summits will focus on substance use and mental health and can also be expanded as needed to address new or emerging issues that impact student wellness and success in the future. CSA is now discussing plans for the first System-wide summit to take place in the summer of 2021.

Chair Jordan reinforced the importance of knowing the history and context for System-wide issues and initiatives, especially for Board members who were not part of the process.

Governor Edge asked if university staff have observed increasing use and misuse of Adderall to improve performance. Dr. England noted that the national assessment does specify certain drugs and that university staff are watching drug use very closely. Dr. Hudson stated that he would follow up with the health center directors to determine what information is available specific to that drug. Governor Jordan also noted that Adderall is increasingly misused by high school students and is something that the System should watch. Governor Scott stated that Adderall and similar drugs are common and readily prescribed for students under the age of 12 and 13 for hyperactivity, and the psychiatrists are almost too eager to prescribe it even when the student outgrows the need for the drug.

Dr. Hudson thanked the universities for providing the information for this presentation and then reviewed the Student Wellness Dashboard that contains System-level goals and initiatives that address student wellness, drug and alcohol use, and mental health. He presented the following highlights.

- Ten out of twelve institutions implemented the American College Health Association's National College Assessment. Florida Polytechnic University was not able to administer in spring due to COVID-19. Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU) was unable to administer the assessment due to COVID-19. Their plan is to administer the assessment in the spring of 2021.
- All 12 institutions implemented Healthy Campus 2020. The American College Health Association is establishing the framework for Healthy Campus 2030, and all institutions are looking forward to launching Healthy Campus 2030.
- Eleven institutions reported rebranding the collegiate student experience around healthy and reasonable choices related to alcohol and other drugs to support lifelong health and well-being. The University of West Florida reported that this would be incorporated into the larger ArgoWell initiative, which encourages students to "make the healthy choice the easy choice" in all areas of wellness.
- All 12 institutions aligned policies with practice to support the desired student campus culture.
- All 12 institutions implemented best practices focused on prevention and early intervention.
- All 12 institutions created initiatives in place to support students with non-drinking and non-drug using lifestyle.
- The goal to provide Student Life Skills/Wellness courses, which will have a mental health/well-being component, was set to be implemented by fall 2021. To date, 11 of the 12 institutions have achieved this goal. Florida Gulf Coast University reported that, though a course has not been completed, a week-long module has been added to transition courses for college freshmen that focus on health and well-being.
- All institutions created or re-oriented campus services focused on proactive and responsive mental well-being.
- Eleven institutions implemented peer education programs, which require training prior to becoming a peer educator. FAMU reported that implementation was originally postponed until spring 2020; however, the initiative was unable to be implemented in spring due to COVID-19. FAMU is planning to start the training just before Thanksgiving or immediately after.
- All institutions reported administering a needs assessment or assessments for incoming freshman students, which allows institutions to utilize their resources more appropriately and effectively to meet student needs. The assessments look at drug and alcohol use, mental health, and additional topics that relate to student well-being, such as physical wellness, interpersonal violence prevention, and sexual assault prevention.

Dr. Hudson also noted that COVID-19 had a significant impact on students, faculty, and staff. He reported that System institutions are staying connected with students during COVID-19 through the use of technology platforms and social media. Institutions adjusted to delivering their entire array of services using all available means, including but not limited to Microsoft Teams, Canvas, Facebook, Zoom, and other technological platforms. Additionally, institutions are providing telehealth appointments for individual counseling and group therapy. They are also providing consultations and outreach presentations via Zoom or connecting students with providers in the city in which they reside if they live outside of Florida. Counseling centers are making adjustments by turning typical workshops into webinars to reach more students with suicide prevention, anxiety, depression, addiction, test anxiety, and stress management. Dr. Hudson reiterated that faculty and staff are training through Kognito. Some universities have included this information during faculty planning, employee orientation, and mental health summits. Dr. Hudson stated that the institutions are committed to monitoring students' needs and providing mental health support services to assist students with their progression to graduation by identifying and responding to students in distress, providing referrals to campus and community resources, and providing crisis intervention as well as suicide prevention.

Chair Jordan reinforced the need to monitor student well-being during these difficult times and commended the institutions for their efforts to monitor student needs and in responding to those needs as appropriate. Chair Jordan also congratulated Dr. Hudson and Dr. England on the System's award for the implementation of Kognito.

Board Chair Kitson also reinforced the importance of supporting students. Governor Schneider stated a need to encourage students to be honest about what they are doing instead of telling them what not to do.

## 5. Academic Program Items

### A. Ph.D. in Cognitive Neuroscience, CIP 42.2706, Florida International University

Chair Jordan announced that the next item on the agenda was to consider a request from Florida International University (FIU) for approval to implement a Ph.D. in Cognitive Neuroscience. Chair Jordan stated that the FIU Board of Trustees approved the program on June 16, 2020. If approved by the Board of Governors, FIU would implement the program effective fall 2021. Chair Jordan recognized Dr. Traki Taylor, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, to provide an overview of the program.

Dr. Taylor began with an overview of the program approval criteria relative to accountability and readiness. She noted that each proposal is reviewed for strategic plan alignment, workforce demand, academic program coordination, fiscal responsibility, and the benefit to the university, community, and state. She added that readiness is determined by program quality indicators, appropriate curriculum for the

area of study and degree level, availability of qualified faculty, and availability of institutional resources.

Dr. Taylor stated that the purpose of the program was to provide graduate training in various areas with broader STEM-related skills; neuroscience research methodology and data analysis; cognitive, developmental, and behavioral neuroscience; learning and memory; and neuropsychological disorders. The program would be classified as a STEM program within the Programs of Strategic Emphasis framework. The program would be delivered primarily face-to-face on the FIU main campus. Additionally, graduates would have job opportunities as psychologists, researchers in various industries, postsecondary teachers, and numerous other options.

Dr. Taylor reported that FIU has adequate financial resources and facilities to support the program. The total program cost in year one would be \$728,797 and would be funded through E&G as well as grants and contracts. FIU would charge the standard graduate tuition and fee rate of \$455.00 per credit hour for resident graduate students and \$1,001.00 per credit hour for nonresident graduate students.

Dr. Taylor also highlighted the significant amounts of external funding secured by the current FIU faculty who would be teaching in the proposed program.

Governor Lydecker noted that the program sounds excellent and asked if there is a concern about Florida Atlantic University (FAU) having a similar program and whether there are opportunities for collaboration.

Dr. Ken Furton, Provost and Executive Vice President at FIU, stated that there are already collaborations with FAU in this area, which will continue.

Dr. Anthony Dick, Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at FIU, noted that the proposal included several letters of support from FAU and that the collaborations with FAU would continue. Dr. Dick also mentioned that collaborations occur through the Florida Consortium of Neuroscience started by faculty at the University of Florida, FAU, and FIU. Dr. Dick also reported that FAU has moved or will move their program into a different CIP code, so eventually, the FIU program will be the only one in the proposed CIP code.

Governor Lamb asked if there would be any additional costs beyond year one that FIU would not be able to fund. Dr. Furton noted that no additional funds would be requested and that current funds for the existing track will be redirected.

Governor Self expressed his appreciation for having a copy of the full program proposal and noted the outstanding qualifications of the FIU faculty in this program. Governor Self also noted that the external evaluator did an excellent job and that FIU responded very well to the evaluator's feedback. He went on to describe the maturation of an important field of study and reiterated his support for the program.

Chair Jordan asked for a motion to approve Florida International University's Ph.D. in Cognitive Neuroscience, CIP 42.2706, at the currently approved graduate tuition rate of \$455.64 per credit hour for resident students and \$1,001.69 per credit hour for nonresident students, with a program implementation date of fall 2021. Governor Frost moved to approve, Governor Schneider seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### B. Possum Trot Special Purpose Center, Florida International University

Chair Jordan announced that the next item on the agenda is a proposal from FIU to consider for approval Possum Trot as a special purpose center pursuant to Board of Governors Regulation 8.009. Chair Jordan recognized Dr. Traki Taylor to provide an overview of the request.

Dr. Taylor noted that Regulation 8.009 defines a special purpose center as a unit of a university, apart from the main campus, that provides certain special, clearly defined programs or services, such as research or public service, and reflects a relatively permanent commitment by a university for the foreseeable future. The facility must be university-owned, leased, or jointly used with another public institution. Dr. Taylor also stated that special purpose centers typically do not offer instructional programs or courses leading to a college degree.

Dr. Taylor reported that Possum Trot is a 29.24-acre tropical fruit grove located at the northeast intersection of SW 216 Street and SW 152 Avenue, Miami, Florida. Possum Trot would be a site for agricultural and ecological research, contributing to the number of STEM-trained graduates. The site would support research in agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, tropical biology, biochemistry, bioeconomics, marketing, and business. Possum Trot would also deliver applied research and practical training in sustainable agriculture, soil science, horticulture, and demonstration plots. At Possum Trot, students would be able to explore spatial agricultural issues, including regional water allocation conflicts, urban-rural conflicts, community foodsheds, and geospatial analysis of agricultural resources and systems impacts.

Dr. Taylor noted that the land was gifted to FIU by Mr. Robert F. Barnum. The grove contains an extensive and unique collection of more than 4,000 plants in more than 200 species of tropical fruit, spice, and timber trees collected by the current owner over a thirty-year period. The site would be used as a teaching element of FIU's Agroecology program housed in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Education; however, FIU will not offer instructional programs or courses leading to a college degree at this location. Effective upon approval from the Board of Governors, Possum Trot will open in fall 2020.

Chair Jordan asked for a motion to approve Possum Trot as a Special Purpose Center for Florida International University, pursuant to Board of Governors Regulation 8.009.



Governor Self moved to approve, Governor Schneider seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

## 6. 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.

- Provost Furton acknowledged that with the constant changes on System campuses, the weekly CAVP meetings with Vice Chancellor England are helpful.
- CAVP topics included the following.
  - Planned transitions and continuing operations for Complete Florida Plus, moving from UWF to Florida State University
  - Kognito training, implementation, and compliance
  - Effectiveness of teaching and learning in 2020
  - Ways to increase in face-to-face sections through high-flex formats, synchronous remote, and asynchronous quality designed delivery formats
  - Planning and schedules for summer and fall 2021
  - The impact of SAT testing on fall applications and admission deadlines, which were delayed to accommodate students
  - The potential impacts of K-12 learning loss due to COVID and how to mitigate the losses when students arrive at SUS institutions

Chair Jordan noted the importance of increasing in-person courses for the spring and the challenges students are having relative to standardized testing for admissions.

Dr. Furton stated that those challenges are likely impacting the number of applications, among other factors. Universities are looking at various strategies to encourage more students to apply.

Chair Jordan commented that universities are likely to see increased requests for financial aid. She also noted that private universities are seeing less demand for campus tours that is likely due to the uncertainty of course delivery options. She asked if the System institutions were experiencing similar trends.

Dr. Furton noted that they have seen similar trends and that each institution is working to increase face-to-face offerings and financial aid while implementing other strategies to encourage students to apply and enroll. Institutions are also surveying students to better understand the decisions students are making, especially those that are delaying enrollment.

Chair Jordan stated that messaging is very important and that the System needs to let students and families know that System institutions are open and taking precautions.

Board Chair Kitson reiterated the importance of in-person learning while following the Center of Disease Control's guidance.

Governor Tripp asked Dr. Furton if CAVP has had a full discussion about standardized testing and whether a position has been taken. Dr. Furton stated that CAVP has had regular discussions on the topic and that all other states have waived the requirement.

Governor Tripp asked if CAVP recommends continuing the test or delaying the requirement for a year. Dr. Furton stated that delaying a year would likely be beneficial.

Chair Jordan stated that the requirement might be putting an unintentional barrier for students who want to apply to a System institution. She also expressed concerns about marginalizing people who do not have access to reliable technology, and that technology is creating barriers to entry.

Chancellor Criser provided the following context on standardized testing. Board staff were working closely with staff at the College Board and ACT to leverage the position of the System in order to ensure adequate coverage. Chancellor Criser reported that more than 125,000 SAT exams had been administered by the College Board this fall during both national and in-school test dates. The College Board expects to administer more than 41,000 SAT exams between November and early December during national test dates and in-school test days. He also reported that ACT Inc. estimates 48,000 exams were administered on national test dates in September and October. Additional students were tested during in-school test administrations during the month of October, and the ACT will also be administered during a national test date on December 12.

Chancellor Criser also acknowledged the efforts on the part of the Department of Education to remove barriers. Chancellor Criser stated his commitment to work with the institutions going forward. He also noted that it's important to look at the number of applications year over year since students often wait until the deadline to apply. He also noted that all System institutions extended deadlines to give students the opportunity to take and retake the necessary exams. Chancellor Criser commended institutions for the changes and acknowledged the challenges with extending deadlines. He also noted that when sites close, College Board and ACT staff work hard to help students find an alternative location in their area.

Dr. Furton noted that there has been an increase in the numbers of students who are able to access the exams and that the institutions are continuing to communicate with prospective students about the flexibility regarding deadlines

Chancellor Criser also informed the Board that typically, about 58% of incoming first-time college students in the System are eligible for Bright Futures. Bright Futures requires standardized test scores in addition to a minimum GPA. He stated that it is important to be consistent in communicating with students about the standardized test requirements so that they do not miss an opportunity to receive Bright Futures.

#### 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 work diligently on behalf of students and the universities and meets weekly to manage and adjust to COVID.
- System institutions are providing student support services such as counseling, housing, student life, enrollment services, health services, career services, and others as needed.
- System institutions are preparing for end-of-term activities and are encouraging students and others to comply with the safety protocols over the winter break as well.
- The camaraderie and support among CSA have been invaluable throughout 2020.

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

Chair Jordan recognized Governor Schneider, Chair of the Florida Student Association, who provided the following updates.

- Students in Florida support the System going test-optional in order to support student well-being and student success. The System could be a bold leader in this area.
- All of the System student governments are actively supporting the students on their campuses and training the next generation of student leaders, as evidenced by the following accomplishments and initiatives.
  - Florida Gulf Coast University's student government has implemented a program to increase student safety and responsibility when students go off-campus to restaurants and bars.
  - University of South Florida's student government created a peer-to-peer mental health program to support students.
  - New College of Florida's student government established a police and student relations group to improve relationships between students and campus police.

- Florida State University's student government worked with the faculty senate to ensure campus resources are listed on course syllabi.
- University of North Florida's student government implemented a late-night shuttle program to keep students safe at night.
- Florida Polytechnic University's student government provided students with transportation to the polls during the recent election.
- FSA members participated in a webinar with the Secretary of State and Chancellor Criser prior to the recent election to discuss the importance of voting.
- FSA will hold an in-person meeting at FAU in December to discuss their legislative agenda and advocacy and to plan for the annual Rally in Tally event.

#### 9. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Jordan adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

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Darlene Jordan, Chair

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Dr. Christy England  
Vice Chancellor for Academic and  
Student Affairs