

MINUTES  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA  
October 30, 2019

*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 Norman Tripp convened the Academic and Student Affairs meeting at 12:04 p.m. with Governors Cerio, Felton, Frost (phone), Johnson, Lamb, Morton, and Scott present. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of August 29, 2019, Committee Meeting

Chair Tripp asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 29, 2019, committee meeting. Governor Morton moved to approve, Governor Felton seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer's Report

Chair Tripp recognized Dr. Christy England, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to give a report on the activities of the Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) unit. Dr. England reported that ASA staff continues to meet with counterparts across the system, work with key partners on legislation, and continue to carry out core functions of the office and on behalf of the Board.

Dr. England also reported that on September 23 and 24, the Seventh Annual C.W. Bill Young Federal R&D Agency Workshop in Washington, D.C. was held, which was well attended by administrators and faculty from all of the State University System (SUS) institutions. Additionally, there were agency heads from the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and National Institutes of Health, among many others. A common theme among the presentations was a recognition of SUS institutions' success in collaboration and securing funding for research.

Board Chair Lautenbach asked about the role of legislators in Washington, D.C. Dr. England mentioned it probably varies from institution to institution.

4. Engineering Program Update

Chair Tripp announced that the next item on the agenda was an update on two aspects of engineering programs: internships and mathematics preparation. He then introduced Dr. England to give the update.

Dr. England explained that, after the August meeting, Board staff collected information from all 12 institutions on engineering internships and initiatives for student success in calculus. This information was then used to create information briefs, which were included in the materials for this meeting. Dr. England then noted that all engineering programs in the system offer students the opportunity to engage in internships, and some programs also offer students the opportunity to engage in cooperative educational experiences. These experiences may be completed without adding additional credit hours. Dr. England explained that 34% of undergraduate engineering students graduating in 2019 completed an internship, and 4% completed a cooperative educational experience; however, there is a possibility that these numbers are underreported as some students may secure internships and not report them to the institution.

Dr. England then noted that Board staff also collected information regarding what SUS institutions were doing to address mathematics preparation, specifically in the areas of calculus and pre-calculus. She then introduced Dr. Joseph Glover, Provost of the University of Florida, to provide additional information. Dr. Glover noted that after a conversation with Board Chair Ned Lautenbach, the Mathematics Chairs from the SUS institutions held two conferences to discuss the issues surrounding math pathways and improve student success. He added that institutions had adopted several tactics based on successful national experiments in mathematics pedagogy and course redesign. This course redesign focused on the lower division sequence, especially in the calculus sequence that is critical to STEM disciplines. Some campuses have adopted the use of placement exams such as ALEKS. Some campuses have introduced active learning techniques, learning assistants, and flipped classrooms to reduce the numbers of students dropping out of courses, failing courses, or withdrawing from courses as measured by DFW rates. He also noted that some institutions adopted several student support mechanisms, including boot camps, tutoring, and success coaches. Dr. Glover added that some institutions have also created open course materials, which reduces the cost to students.

Dr. Glover explained that the SUS had seen improvements in two metrics of success: DFW rates and student mastery of material. In regards to DFW rates, SUS institutions reported evidence of a reduction in the DFW rates for mathematics courses. Dr. Glover noted that the SUS institutions also reported greater mastery of concepts and applications. He added that there was still work to be done, but that there is substantial progress occurring.

## 5. Academic Program Actions

### A. Ph.D. in Informatics and Big Data Analytics, CIP 11.0104, University of South Florida

Chair Tripp introduced the next item on the agenda, which was to consider for approval a Ph.D. in Informatics and Big Data Analytics, CIP 11.0104, at the University of South Florida. Chair Tripp introduced Dr. Ralph Wilcox, Provost of the University of South Florida, to provide an overview of the program.

Dr. Wilcox explained that the proposed program is an interdisciplinary program that draws on existing expertise in the Colleges of Medicine, Engineering, Business, Public Health, and Arts and Sciences. He noted that the program was shaped through input from business and industry and was designed to produce advanced Big Data practitioners, researchers, data scientists, and future members of academia. The program's curriculum is focused on human, computational, and statistical dimensions.

Chair Tripp thanked Dr. Wilcox for the presentation.

Chair Tripp then asked for a motion to approve the University of South Florida's Ph.D. in Informatics and Big Data Analytics, CIP 11.0104, at the institution's approved graduate tuition rate with a program implementation date of fall 2020. Governor Lamb moved to approve, Governor Felton seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### 6. Recommendations for Strategies 2 and 3 of the *Improving 2+2 Articulation Implementation Plan*

Chair Tripp said the next item on the agenda was an update on the 2+2 Articulation Implementation Plan. He introduced Governor Alan Levine, who chaired the Select Committee on 2+2 Articulation to provide introductory remarks.

Governor Levine reviewed the inception of the 2+2 committee, noting that the initial charge of the select committee was to assess ways to improve the statewide 2+2 agreement and identify strategies to enhance the university programs that support the agreement. The committee first convened on March 17, 2016, at the University of West Florida, where the committee approved its work plan. He added that the committee continued to convene and meet with experts from across the SUS, Florida College System (FCS), and the Department of Education to review the status of the system, identify critical opportunities for improvement, and select strategies for enhancing 2+2 agreements. Governor Levine noted the following statistics: 25% of all undergraduates in the SUS are AA transfers; 90% of AA applicants to the SUS only apply to one institution; one-third of AA graduates do not apply for admission to a state university; and 40% of AA transfers graduate in two years. He explained that in 2017, the Board of Governors approved three strategies to improve articulation in the following four areas: academic transition, admission process, the cultural transition between a two-year college and a state university, and additional data and information on the AA graduates themselves. He thanked the Board of Governors for their support in this initiative and introduced Dr. Christy England, who provided an overview of recommendations for implementing two of the plan's strategies.

Dr. England reviewed the three strategies of the *2+2 Articulation Implementation Plan*, which was approved in March of 2017, and provided an overview of the workgroup's efforts over the past two years. The first strategy was to develop a comprehensive and easily accessible web-based 2+2 advising toolkit. The second strategy was to improve and expand existing local 2+2 enhancement programs and identify key components of effective programs. The third strategy was to develop and implement a 2+2 data and information toolkit. In August of 2017, the statewide 2+2 workgroup met. This group

was comprised of representatives from the Articulation Coordinating Committee, SUS institutions, FCS institutions, the Department of Education's Office of Articulation and the Division of Florida Colleges, and the Board office. She added that recommendations for Strategy 1 were presented and approved by the Board in September of 2018. This recommendation was to develop a memorandum of understanding with the Florida Virtual Campus to develop a website focused on 2+2 articulation and provide critical information for transfer students. She added that this work is currently underway, and the goal is to provide an update to the Board in 2020.

Dr. England then presented recommendations for Strategy 2, which focused on expanding and improving local 2+2 programs. She explained that at the start of this process, some SUS institutions and FCS institutions did not have articulation partners. However, Dr. England noted that expansion has occurred and that to date, all SUS institutions had at least one FCS partner and that all FCS institutions had at least one SUS partner. Dr. England explained that the select committee wanted to ensure that all programs were of high quality, that existing programs were engaging in continuous improvement, and that new programs would be based on best practices and lessons learned from existing programs. The workgroup identified critical components in the four key areas and developed a self-evaluation rubric. These key areas are academic transition, campus cultural transition, administrative oversight, and data support. She added that, based on feedback from Chair Tripp, Board staff were also developing a questionnaire that SUS institutions would send to FCS partners in order to capture the FCS voice in the continuous improvement cycle. The rubric was approved by all 12 SUS institutions and some also piloted the rubric in the fall of 2019. Dr. England added that if the recommendation was approved by the Board, the rubric would be distributed to all 12 SUS institutions, and the results of the self-evaluations would be presented to the Board in the spring of 2020.

Chair Tripp requested a motion to approve the recommended rubric and institutional self-evaluation process for addressing Strategy 2, improve and expand existing local 2+2 enhancement programs. Governor Lamb made a motion to approve the rubric, Governor Felton seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. England then reviewed Strategy 3, which was focused on developing and implementing a 2+2 data toolkit. The recommendation from the committee was that the toolkit contains existing data as well as any new data that was needed. She explained that the workgroup reviewed the questions that were raised during the select committee's conversation on direct transfers and questions that were raised during the 2+2 Committee's Board meetings. The workgroup put together a comprehensive set of research questions. If the questions are approved by the Board, a work plan will be developed to answer these questions.

Chair Tripp asked for a motion to approve the recommended research questions to guide the development of a 2+2 Data Toolkit for addressing Strategy 3, a 2+2 data and information toolkit looking at both the institutional and System levels. Governor Cerio made a motion to approve, Governor Lamb seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## 7. Academic and Student Affairs Updates

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

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

- The provosts met with Dr. Nancy McKee regarding the Complete Florida Plus Program; however, there has been a proposal developed by the Florida College System's Library Association that recommends that the program be transferred to another institution. This proposal includes library loans and academic journal collaborations. The provosts are concerned about future placement due to the financial resources needed for journals, particularly in STEM areas.
- The provosts also considered a request from the Continuing Education Deans regarding their forming a system-wide group, and the provosts suggested that this request should emerge through the provosts. The provosts also noted that the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education and the University Professional Continuing Education would help provide support.
- The provosts also heard a presentation from Romi Gutierrez, the new Director of the University Press of Florida, who reviewed their operations and plans to diversify services to lead to more direct sales to students and commercial markets as opposed to university libraries. The University Press of Florida also plans to engage more with faculty across the system about opportunities to publish with the University Press of Florida and to educate faculty about predatory journals. The University Press also wants to work with appropriate parties to reduce the costs of textbooks.

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

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

- CSA continues to promote mental health awareness, and the Kognito training for faculty and staff will go live in January.
- CSA recognized Representative Silvers for holding round table discussions at higher education institutions throughout the SUS to increase awareness of the medical amnesty issue and to ensure that students, faculty, and staff are aware of the newly passed legislation-HB 595.
- CSA and the Florida Student Association continue to have conversations concerning specific topics of student interest, including food pantries on campus, mental health awareness, and the Rally in Tally.
- CSA is discussing and reviewing best practices in enrollment management and debt reduction.

### C. Florida Student Association (FSA)

Chair Tripp then recognized Governor Zenani Johnson, who provided the following updates.

- FSA members and all twelve student body presidents of SUS institutions attended the Trustee Summit.
- FSA continues to work on the Rally in Tally event. This year there will be a series of events on November 12 and 13.
- FSA will be advocating for two legislative issues: decreasing the textbook tax and a food and housing appropriation to combat food insecurities among students in the SUS.
- After the Rally in Tally, FSA will be leading initiatives to bring awareness to sexual assault on college campuses and mental health round tables.

#### 8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Tripp adjourned the meeting at 12:56 p.m.

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Norman D. Tripp, Chair

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Disraelly Cruz, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director for  
Academic Affairs