

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**Strategic Planning Committee**  
June 23, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Expanding the State University System's Capacity to Help Address Florida's Access Demands and Economic Development Goals

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**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION**

For Information and Discussion.

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Section 7(d), Art. IX, Florida Constitution

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

At their meeting in Tallahassee on March 24, 2011, members of the Board of Governors began to discuss strategic planning priorities for the State University System. Early analyses of student access demands, as well as talent supply and economic development needs, have highlighted how critical it will be for the Board to identify ways to expand capacity in the System. Even in its original Strategic Plan, the Board recognized the need to "continue to study ways to create the optimum structure for the university system, including number and location of universities, number and location of branches, and number and location of subsystems, reflecting the geographic needs of the state."

The Board has been reviewing and revising policies and procedures designed to advance coordination of efforts within the System and to provide flexibility to fund increased capacity. Additionally, the Board has been reviewing options to expand the use of e-learning in the System. Simultaneously, via the Higher Education Coordinating Council, the Chancellor has been working with leaders from the other higher education sectors to enhance coordination and to identify additional partnership opportunities to increase student access to higher education in Florida.

In the coming months, the Board will continue to review options for expanding access in the System. One option to consider would focus on developing one or more branch campuses into "designation campuses." Another option would be to focus on

increasing the number of institutions in the System. However, the Board currently does not have in place specific criteria or policies for determining when such actions should be pursued. Therefore, even as the Board explores other options to expand access, it will begin to develop the needed policies and procedures for determining if and when there should be an increase in the number of institutions, whether through the creation of a new institution, the expansion of a branch campus into a stand-alone institution, bringing an existing institution of higher education into the System, or consolidating two or more educational sites to form a new institution.

At this meeting, members of the Strategic Planning Committee will begin to discuss some principles to guide the development of related policies, as well as the kinds of information they believe they would need to make a knowledgeable decision about System expansion. These discussions will guide staff as they draft a regulation for the Board's consideration at a future meeting.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:**

None

**Facilitators/Presenters:**

Governor John Rood  
Board of Governors Staff