# INDEX OF MINUTES STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA TAMPA, FL September 16, 2020

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	<ul> <li>ii. 2020-2021 State University System Operating Budget</li> <li>iii. 2020-2021 Board General Office Budget</li> <li>iv. 2021-2022 State University System Legislative Budget Request</li> <li>v. 2021-2022 Board General Office Legislative Budget Request</li> <li>F. Nomination and Governance Committee Report</li> </ul>
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#### MINUTES: FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

## MINUTES STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA TAMPA, FL September 16, 2020

#### 1. Call to Order

On September 16, 2020, Chair Sydney Kitson convened the meeting at 4:06 p.m. with the following members present and answering roll call: Vice Chair Brian Lamb; Tim Cerio; Aubrey Edge; Patricia Frost; Darlene Jordan; Alan Levine; Charles Lydecker; Ally Schneider; William Self; Eric Silagy; Kent Stermon and Norman Tripp.

#### 2. Chair's Report to the Board of Governors

Chair Kitson thanked members and all participants for attending the board meeting, especially under such unprecedented times. He thanked President Currall, Chair Zimmerman, Dean Charlie Lockwood, and the USF staff for working tirelessly to enable the Board meeting to take place. Chair Kitson stated the meeting was originally scheduled to take place at the University of West Florida, but it was best to move the meeting to a more centrally located venue during such extraordinary times. He then called on President Currall and Chair Zimmerman for remarks.

Chair Zimmerman said it is an honor to host the Board of Governors and welcomed everyone to the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and Heart Institute. The new facility was funded by the legislature and is critical to USF's mission to advance medical education and research.

Chair Zimmerman explained USF completed the consolidation process and is now one university with campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Sarasota-Manatee. He thanked his team and the State University System for giving them the vision to create a greater university. The USF Board of Trustees is proud of the work USF is doing and for its support of the Tampa Bay region during such challenging times. USF developed FDA-approved 3-D nasal swabs that are used globally for COVID-19 testing, and transitioned to telemedicine to ensure clinical operations continue, especially with high-risk patients. Numerous testing sites throughout the community have been made available and the university launched 29 clinical trials. Vice President Pence, Governor DeSantis, and others recently visited USF to discuss the work the university is doing. Chair Zimmerman commended Dr. Donna Peterson, the Dean of Public Health, and the leadership of the USF task force for their efforts in helping their faculty, staff, and students to stay healthy and safe.

Chair Zimmerman assured the Board that USF leadership continues to focus on strategic goals and aspirations. USF is continuing to show a high return on

investment and they are looking forward to working closely with the Board of Governors and Chancellor Criser during the upcoming legislative session.

President Currall welcomed everyone and thanked the Board of Governors for asking USF to host the meeting. He emphasized what an historic year it has been for the university. For the first time in history, the Tampa Bay region is being served by one preeminent, nationally ranked research university. Despite concerns over the impact of COVID-19, more students than ever have chosen USF. This academic year, summer and fall enrollment is running 3.4% ahead of last year. Their recent incoming class is the most academically accomplished in their history, with an average SAT score of 1312 and a high school grade point average of 4.18. USF is also attracting students who are increasingly diverse.

President Currall said they look forward to the Board of Governor's leadership in partnering with the legislature to support their pursuit of funding as one of the three preeminent universities in Florida. Future investments in the university will allow for lower student and faculty ratios and enhance research activities. He shared a brief video that highlights some of the points that make them proud at USF.

Chair Kitson welcomed everyone and said the opening weeks of the fall semester have gone well, thanks to months of hard work and preparation. Each university outlined clear plans to enhance the safety of the students, faculty, and staff and stressed the need for everyone to take responsibility and ownership of the process. Chair Kitson said there have been positive COVID-19 cases within the System, but the universities responded with proactive health and educational guidance. Surgeon General Scott Rivkees cautioned that the COVID-19 virus will remain with us for some time. Chair Kitson indicated some careless student behavior on a few campuses resulted in an increase in positive cases, but these incidents were addressed quickly by university leaders. The vast majority of students, however, have accepted the shared responsibility of making the fall semester successful.

Despite early concerns of possible enrollment declines due to the pandemic, several universities reported that enrollments were stable or have increased. Chair Kitson commented this is a testament to the universities' reputation for delivering high quality degree programs and the enormous strides the System has made with regard to student success, affordability, and research.

Chair Kitson indicated football games will be played this fall, and presidents and athletic directors are prioritizing the health and welfare of the players and fans. He emphasized that we returned to campus this fall because the students want to be there, and we expect to complete the fall semester on campus. Plans for spring semester are already underway and he commended the presidents and universities for working together and sharing information.

Next, Chair Kitson highlighted the new Florida Score Board, a dashboard that will be featured on the Board of Governors website. Board staff developed a tool that

displays key performance and accountability metrics illustrating how well the universities and the System are performing. The Score Board will benefit students, parents, and businesses by enabling them to quickly see how the System is performing on ten key metrics. He called on Mr. Gene Kovacs, the Board's Chief Information Officer, to provide a brief demonstration of the Score Board.

Chair Kitson concluded by thanking each board member for their service and dedication to the System, and for stepping up during this difficult time. He thanked presidents, boards of trustees, trustee chairs, and administrators for their continued efforts to lead their universities. He also thanked Chancellor Criser for his leadership, and the Board of Governors staff for their dedication. Lastly, he thanked the students for their commitment and continued efforts.

#### 3. Recognition of Outgoing Governor Shawn Felton

Chair Kitson welcomed the new faculty representative, Dr. William Self, who was recently elected as the incoming Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates, to the Board of Governors. In addition to being the faculty representative to the Board, Dr. Self is a Professor of Medicine in the UCF Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, where he also serves as the Associate Director of Undergraduate Affairs. Dr. Self has served UCF for seven years on the Senate Joint Committees and Councils, and eight years as a Faculty Senator for the College of Medicine. Dr. Self also served as Chair of the Undergraduate Council for two years, and as a member of the UCF Board of Trustees.

Chair Kitson then thanked the outgoing faculty representative, Dr. Shawn Felton, for his dedicated service on the Board and his ongoing contributions to the State University System. Chair Kitson stated Dr. Felton has been a voice for faculty members across all of the 12 universities.

Ms. Vikki Shirley, the Board's General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, read the resolution honoring Dr. Felton. The resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board upon a motion by Mr. Self and seconded by Mr. Levine.

#### 4. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Criser provided a brief update on standardized SAT and ACT testing. The College Board administered over 18,000 SAT exams on August 29<sup>th</sup> and there are another 100,000 seats available for exam administrations in September and October. He indicated there should be many opportunities for the students to take the SAT exams, but it will be watched carefully to make sure the exams are available state-wide for all students. He noted the ACT expects to administer 28,000 exams during the month of September, which are planned to take place in schools, on school days. Chancellor Criser also reported the Department of Education extended the deadline for students to qualify for Bright Futures to the end of 2020.

National rankings were recently released by U.S. News & World Report. Chancellor Criser stated the State University System has four institutions in the top 25 of the top 125 public universities in the country and six institutions in the top 30. He also recognized the state's investment in higher education, particularly the extension of Bright Futures scholarships to the summer terms and funding for the Florida Student Assistance Grant program.

Chancellor Criser reported on the work of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion workgroup that includes representatives of various campus councils, including the provosts, student affairs vice presidents, police chiefs, chief financial officers, human resource managers, and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion leaders. He said the group has been meeting regularly and will be meeting with student government and faculty senate representatives to obtain their input on the initiatives they have been discussing.

#### 5. Public Comment

No requests for public comment were received.

#### 6. Renewal of Chancellor's Employment Agreement

Chair Kitson recognized the Chancellor's exemplary performance and moved to renew the Chancellor's Employment Agreement for an additional one year term from January 1, 2021 to January 1, 2022, and for the Board to authorize a delegation of authority to the Chair to negotiate a revised compensation amount and execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board. Mr. Tripp moved approval, which was seconded by Ms. Jordan and the members concurred unanimously.

### 7. <u>Amendments to Board of Governors and Board of Trustees Regulation</u> <u>Development Procedures</u>

Chair Kitson proposed amendments to the Board of Governors and Board of Trustees Regulation Development Procedures to correct an erroneous citation to the applicable Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure. Ms. Schneider moved approval of the amendment, which was seconded by Mr. Silagy and the members concurred unanimously.

#### 8. Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Tripp moved approval of the slate of items on the Consent Agenda. Ms. Frost seconded the motion, and the members concurred unanimously.

### 9. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Kitson announced the next meeting of the Board will be held on November 4, 2020, at the University of North Florida. The plan is for the meeting to be conducted in-person and for members who are unable to attend in-person to use a virtual platform, with more information to follow. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m. on September 16, 2020.

	Sydney Kitson, Chair	
Vikki Shirley,	_	
Corporate Secretary		