

FSU LBR Multi-year Request Appendix

In 2014, the legislature challenged FSU to move to the top 25 of national universities. In five years, through a laser focus and with state investment, FSU moved up 25 spots and shattered that goal—attaining the status of the 18th ranked public university in the nation. FSU moved up faster than any other university in the Top 50, and arguably made the most significant improvement in the country over the past five years. Florida State University is extremely grateful for the support we have received from the Florida Legislature and Florida Board of Governors. Without this support and commitment, the results we have achieved would not have been possible.

The strategic use of the state’s investments led to marked increases in every *U.S. News* metric over the five-year period. In that time, we have expanded our faculty, set records for research expenditures, increased graduation rates, enriched the learning environment and reduced class sizes, increased faculty resources, and improved our alumni giving rates. Continuing this unprecedented rise will require an additional strategic investment of \$50 million in faculty, research, student support, and graduate programs. Without the full investment, it will be very challenging to obtain our near-term goal of reaching the Top 15 and long-term goal of Top 10 within our proven successful pace.

While we must invest strategically across the university, there are two metrics in which FSU significantly underperforms, thus limiting further advancement in the rankings: educational expenditures and student-to-faculty ratio. These two measures are foundational to FSU’s further advancement since they drive FSU’s performance on nearly every other metric. FSU places near the bottom of all Research I institutions on both measures. Improving the student-faculty ratio to a level that is comparable to top 10 universities will require us to hire at least an additional 400 faculty members.

With the total of \$50M that FSU has respectfully requested, we will invest in hiring new faculty and retaining current faculty, in graduate student teaching and research assistants, and in the powerful student success efforts outlined in our LBR. This will allow the most strategic and impactful investments to be given priority:

Student-to-faculty ratio reduction and increasing the number of award-winning faculty	\$28,100,000 (~200 new faculty members, particularly in STEM and strategic emphasis areas with high student demand and capacity constraints)
Faculty retention and recognition of excellence	\$6,500,000
Graduate student recruitment and enhancement	\$5,400,000 (\$2.5M for ~125 graduate teaching and research assistants and \$2.9M for stipend enhancement)
Student success initiatives	\$10,000,000 (\$4M for student financial aid and scholarships, \$2M for experiential learning and career readiness, \$2M for course and student learning enhancements, \$1.6M for advisors and staff, \$.4M for student engagement programming)