

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
TAMPA, FLORIDA
JUNE 12, 2019

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and its committees are accessible at <http://www.flbog.edu/>.*

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Alan Levine convened the meeting on June 12, 2019, at 1:10 p.m. with the following members present: Governors Jordan, Sterman, and Tripp. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of March 27, 2019, Committee Meeting

Chair Levine asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Committee's March 27, 2019, meeting. Governor Tripp moved to approve the minutes, Governor Jordan seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research (Ch. 2019-01, Laws of Florida)

Chair Levine informed the Committee that the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of the lead institution for the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research. The Chair stated that in March 2019, the Governor signed Senate Bill 182 into law, which authorized the Board of Governors to designate a State University System institution to lead the Consortium. According to the law, the consortium must include both public and private universities. Research must include tracking clinical outcomes, certification standards, dosing standards, routes of administration, efficacy, and side effects. Research must also include the study of the effects of smoking marijuana to treat debilitating medical conditions.

Chair Levine stated that the Legislature provided \$1.5 million in recurring funds to the Board of Governors to award to be the lead institution for the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research beginning with the 2019-20 fiscal year. If the Board approves the lead institution, the funding will be provided through a contract between the Board of Governors and the lead institution.

Chair Levine reported that Board staff sent out a request for applications in April 2019. Based upon a review of the applications submitted, Board staff recommend that the Board of Governors authorize the University of Florida (UF) as the lead institution.

Chair Levine described that in its application, UF demonstrated an extensive portfolio of funded projects that encompass research related to clinical outcomes and mechanistic pathways of medical marijuana. The university also has direct experience with the state's medical marijuana program by collecting treatment plans from ordering physicians so that the university can research the safety and efficacy of low-THC cannabis.

Chair Levine said UF is proposing the Consortium include a new and unique data repository, a clinical research core, and a grants program. Additionally, the university proposes to connect researchers in the field and create new collaborations that can greatly enhance the scientific reach and ultimately enhance the state's prominence in the field of medical marijuana clinical outcomes research.

Chair Levine stated that if approved by the Academic and Research Excellence Committee, this item will go to the full Board for consideration.

Chair Levine entertained a motion to approve UF as the lead institution for the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research and to execute a one-year contract between the Board of Governors and UF to allocate \$1.5 million in appropriated funds for the fiscal year 2019-20. Governor Jordan moved to approve the motion as stated; Governor Tripp seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. University of South Florida Growth in Research

Chair Levine announced that before moving into the next presentation, he wanted to update the Committee on a discussion he had with the Vice Presidents for Research. He said they discussed a variety of topics, including additional opportunities for research collaboration between the SUS institutions, partnerships with the military, and marketing strategies. He also stated that it gets much more challenging to improve incrementally in terms of competitiveness from where the system is today as it moves into the upper echelon of research and that increasing institutional collaboration can improve the state's overall competitiveness. Chair Levine expressed the need to have a plan to succeed long-term. He concluded by stating that the Vice Presidents for Research agreed that the research expenditure goal for the System's 2025 Strategic Plan should be set at \$3 billion.

Chair Levine announced that the next item on the agenda was a presentation highlighting the growth in research activities at the University of South Florida (USF). USF has seen tremendous growth over the last 25 years and is ranked 25th in the nation among public universities for research expenditures by the National Science Foundation. The Chair stated he asked that USF share how they have achieved this success in such a relatively short time and any strategies they used that could be used across the system as we continue to elevate and enhance our research profile.

Chair Levine called on USF President Judy Genshaft, and Dr. Paul Sanberg, Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge Enterprise, to deliver the presentation.

President Genshaft and Dr. Sanberg proceeded with a presentation detailing the history and successes of USF in research endeavors. President Genshaft started by thanking the Board of Governors for devoting time and attention to essential activities, including research. She further explained that, from the time she came on board at USF, research has been part of the core mission of the institution. She said that the research enterprise sets USF apart and allows the university to make a significant impact on the state and country. President Genshaft stated that research is the economic engine that powers the prosperity of the region, the state, and beyond.

President Genshaft said that excellence in research does not happen overnight, and it does not happen by accident. It requires intentional focus and investment. She stated that USF had come a long way, and she was proud to announce that USF now ranks 25th in the rankings of top public research universities. President Genshaft described the history and evolution of USF's research endeavors from its founding in 1956 through today. She explained that the College of Medicine and the field of health was vital in the institution's history from a research perspective.

President Genshaft said that becoming a top tier research institution requires more than any single initiative or investment. It demands an all-encompassing cultural commitment to achieve long-term success. Resources must be used strategically to leverage future success. President Genshaft asked Dr. Sanberg to continue the presentation.

Dr. Sanberg said that having a robust, research-oriented strategic plan, world-class faculty, and adequate facilities are all essential. He described the process USF engaged in to create multiple centers and institutes to pursue multidisciplinary research in earnest. Dr. Sanberg highlighted the Cyber Florida Center. He said that after being in existence for only a few short years, the center is supporting over \$20 million in research expenditures at USF. He noted that federal grants are an essential aspect of research funding, and USF has pushed to expand its federal funding through budgetary ups and downs.

Dr. Sanberg said the most successful programs utilize strategic investments to secure future funding. He explained that diversification is critical to building successful research programs and that research builds student and community success simultaneously. Dr. Sanberg stated that having pivotal faculty in place often draws other researchers and students to top programs. In conclusion, Dr. Sanberg said there are several keys to research success, including creating partnerships, writing a strategic research plan, updating tenure and promotion programs, incorporating research and innovation into undergraduate education, and engaging the broader community in research efforts.

Governor Lamb asked for clarification regarding how targeted investments were made with preeminence funding. Dr. Sanberg described the areas of strategic focus for USF research, which included three key areas: heart/cardiovascular research, medical engineering, and neuroscience.

Chair Levine commended President Genshaft and Dr. Sanberg for the success in research that USF has been able to achieve in such a short period, and he thanked the presenters for sharing USF's story.

6. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Having no further business, Chair Levine adjourned the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Alan Levine, Chair

Roger Strickland
Director, Economic Development