

**Universities of Distinction 2020-21 Legislative Budget Request
Response to BOG Staff Questions (9/25/19)
Florida Polytechnic University**

We have reviewed your Universities of Distinction 2020-21 Legislative Budget Request and are requesting that you submit additional information to address the following issues.

- **Q: Given that Florida Polytechnic is still a new university, explain why and how the university is in a position to consider adding two additional degree programs and when those programs are expected to be operational.**
 - **A:** First, our motivation to adding new degrees is to continue to position ourselves as an important part of the SUS by providing a “suite” of STEM degrees that are: 1) attractive to students and growth in the student body, and 2) attractive to Florida Industry by providing highly educated graduates in the STEM fields. Degree program addition needs to build on existing capacity in order to expand our offering. For instance, cyber security engineering can be added as a degree relatively easily since much of the degree content is already present in Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Computer Science. This degree is under development now and we will likely see it fully operational in the fall of 2021. The second degree will similarly build on existing capacity with degree definition occurring in the next year and an operational degree in fall of 2022 or 2023.
- **Q: Please provide more detail on the five-year spending plan outlined on page 3. For instance, Form II states that 14 FTE will be hired, please provide detail on what years the university is planning to complete those hires and in what specific program areas.**
 - **A:** Form II provides a spending plan for the 2020-2021 request and the budget on page 3 lists a spending plan over five years. The nine faculty on Form II are currently working at the University and in the first year, we will support these faculty over the summer (9 existing faculty at a total summer salary cost of \$220,000) to support new program development. Staff positions are added to help with overall student support services. Starting in 2021-22, we will add faculty at the rate of approximately 8 per year; these faculty will support both campus growth in response to delivery requirements in the programs (likely mathematics, physics, computer science) and new programs (approximately 6 per program by year 3). Services to the campus are focused on student services primarily but also underlying support services that need to grow as the campus grows. The Program line allows us to build out lab and computational services, program support services, lab equipment acquisition and maintenance, and other support costs. Scholarships are addressed in the following bullet.
- **Q: Please provide more details regarding the request for \$2 million in financial aid.**
 - **A:** Florida Poly is still establishing our “brand” and in the same way that Rice University in Houston many years ago provided high financial aid as a way of building a highly selective student body, we will need to provide high aid initially until we are an established, high-value name in Florida.
- **Q: Describe why the university needs a consultant(s) as indicated in the budget on Form 2.**
 - **A:** We have used consultants in the past to establish employment demand for degrees. We will also use consultants to help us open new markets for our incoming students and also to identify high-value faculty hires that will drive research growth.