

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Strategic Planning Committee
September 16, 2020

SUBJECT: 2021-22 Legislative Budget Request: Universities of Distinction and Preeminence/National Rankings

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Consider approval of the 2021-22 legislative budget requests for Universities of Distinction and Preeminence/National Rankings.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its August 29, 2019 meeting, the Board of Governors identified three Pillars of Excellence as a framework for funding System initiatives. The Pillars included: Performance Based Funding, Universities of Distinction, and Preeminence/National Ranking. Universities of Distinction is designed to support the nine non-preeminent institutions in the State University System. In the fall of 2019, institutions submitted proposals to the Board of Governors that identified a program or program area that is a core competence capable of reaching national or state excellence. Universities of Distinction was formally established by the 2020 Legislature, in section 1001.7065, Florida Statutes.

Under the framework established by the Board of Governors in 2019 and supported by the 2020 Legislature, Universities of Distinction proposals may include multiple degree programs that support an area like health, or institutions can be very specific, such as increasing the number of registered nursing graduates to produce a stronger qualified workforce in the state of Florida and/or a particular region of the state. Proposals must demonstrate a unique focus for the institution. These initiatives should be flexible to allow for the distinctive array of strengths across the system. Proposals must also demonstrate how current or future workforce needs will be addressed, with a focus on producing high-quality talent. Lastly, each proposal should identify metrics for measuring success.

The Preeminence/National Ranking Pillar is designed to support the three state institutions that achieved preeminence status as defined by Section 1001.7065, Florida Statutes. The statute outlines 12 metrics and benchmarks based on academic and research excellence for universities to achieve preeminence. This pillar is supported through a collaborative partnership between the Board of Governors and the Legislature to elevate the academic and research preeminence of Florida's highest-performing state research universities.

The 2020 Legislature provided \$6 million to the University of North Florida and \$3 million to Florida Gulf Coast University to support the Universities of Distinction Pillar. Additionally, the legislature provided \$15 million to the University of Florida and \$15 million to Florida State University to support the Preeminence/National Ranking pillar. The Board approved updated spending plans for these institutions at its July 21, 2020, meeting. These four institutions have submitted requests for year two of funding for these initiatives. Under the Universities of Distinction Pillar, seven institutions submitted requests similar to those presented to the Strategic Planning Committee in October 2019. New College did not submit a request under the Universities of Distinction Pillar.

Ms. Emily Sikes, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development will present an overview of the legislative budget requests for both Universities of Distinction and Preeminence/National Rankings.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Universities of Distinction & Preeminence/National Rankings
2021-21 Legislative Budget Requests;
Preeminence/National Rankings LBR
alignment with the US News & World
Report Metrics

Facilitators/Presenters:

Ms. Emily Sikes