

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
TASK FORCE ON ACADEMIC AND WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT
CONFERENCE CALL
May 5, 2020

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

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Eric Silagy convened the meeting on May 5, 2020, at 1:56 p.m. with the following members present: Governors Cerio, Jordan, Kitson, Lamb, and Stermon. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of Task Force on Academic and Workforce Alignment Meeting

Chair Silagy asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the March 25, 2020, Task Force meeting. Governor Jordan moved to approve Governor Kitson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. SUS Initiatives Around Academic and Workforce Alignment

Chair Silagy reported that the presentation on Florida's key industries and occupations that was scheduled for this meeting would be postponed, given the state of the economy. He stated that the Task Force would hear a presentation on current State University System (SUS) initiatives around academic and workforce alignment as well as an update on how the state universities have adapted and expanded their services to students and employers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair Silagy recognized Ms. Emily Sikes, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development, and Ms. Lauren Loeffler, Executive Director of Career Development and Community Engagement at the University of West Florida and the Chair of the Florida Career Centers, a consortium of the SUS career center directors, to present an overview of the SUS initiatives around academic and workforce alignment.

Ms. Sikes presented current SUS initiatives in the areas of academics, research, and career initiatives. Relative to academics, she reported that academic program proposals require documentation of state and national workforce demand and student learning outcomes that align with industry competencies. She stated that industry involvement in academic program development and review is also a critical part of accreditation and licensure. Also, industry advisory councils provide guidance on curriculum, industry trends, and department strategic planning, and some bridge academics and practice through experiential learning opportunities. Ms. Sikes then

provided an overview of the Programs of Strategic Emphasis, which is one of the tools the Board uses to align SUS degrees with Florida's economic and workforce needs and is included in the Board's performance based funding model. Board staff worked with institutions to update the list of programs, which was approved by the Board in October 2019. Ms. Sikes reported the five categories in the Programs of Strategic Emphasis are education, healthcare, global competitiveness, STEM, and the Gap Analysis/Florida needs. The gap analysis was also revised in 2019, and this analysis compared SUS degree production, degrees awarded from the private sector, and the Florida College System to labor market demand information for Florida. Ms. Sikes mentioned that in the gap analysis, several occupations with future gaps were identified, and as a result, academic programs were added to the list.

Ms. Sikes reported that university research is another mechanism in which the SUS institutions work with the business community. She stated that the SUS could help Florida be competitive in business recruitment and future economic development. She highlighted some examples of how university research works with the business community through industry-sponsored research, sharing of facilities and equipment, and faculty and student research to address real problems.

Ms. Sikes then shared activities of the university career centers and their work with industry partners, including connecting students and graduates to businesses. She reported that, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the career centers have adapted how the activities are being delivered. Ms. Sikes cited several examples, including online resources, micro-credentialing opportunities, remote internship opportunities, and assisting businesses with transitioning to an online work environment.

Ms. Loeffler concluded the presentation by providing specific examples of the initiatives. She discussed virtual internship opportunities and identified that multiple institutions have collaborated with Parker-Dewey's micro internship platform to make these alternative internships available to students. Ms. Loeffler highlighted virtual career fairs and reported that the career center directors have been working diligently to provide the annual state-wide job fair in a virtual format on June 17. Ms. Loeffler reported that each institution has been engaging with employers, connecting students and employers, coaching employers on virtual interview options, and hosting company information sessions.

4. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Silagy stated that before the COVID-19 outbreak, Florida's economy was on a strong growth path, with low unemployment. He commented that this is not the case today, and the full impact of this virus on the state's economy has yet to be realized. Chair Silagy said that Florida is a very resilient state, and businesses have been adapting to the new environment. He explained that state economic development leaders are studying the economic impact of the virus. He said that the Task Force would continue to work with those groups, along with state leaders, to determine how the State University System can continue to address the current and future needs of

Florida. Chair Silagy expressed that this Task Force is important now more than ever to help the economy recover and resume a strong growth trajectory.

Having no further business, Chair Silagy adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

Eric Silagy, Chair

Lynn Nelson, Ph.D.
Director of Student Affairs