



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We audited Performance Based Funding Data Integrity as of September 30, 2018. This audit was included as part of our 2018/19 audit work plan, conducted in accordance with a Board of Governors (BOG) directive to state universities. Our specific objectives were to:

- Evaluate internal controls designed to ensure the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of data submissions to the Board of Governors, and
- Provide an objective basis of support for the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees to sign the representations included in the *Performance Based Funding – Data Integrity Certification*, to be filed with the Board of Governors by March 1, 2019.

Audit fieldwork began on September 7, 2018, and ended on December 18, 2018. Our audit was conducted in accordance with the Institute of Internal Auditors *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing* and generally accepted auditing standards.

BACKGROUND

The BOG has broad governance responsibilities affecting administrative and budgetary matters for Florida’s 12 public universities. Beginning in fiscal year 2013/14, they instituted a performance funding program that is based on 10 metrics. These metrics are used to evaluate the institutions on a range of issues including cost per degree, retention rates, graduation rates, and job placement, among other things.

Each university is offered a “Board of Trustees Choice Metric,” enabling the institution to select a metric that improves their scoring with respect to

performance funding, based on their unique strengths.

Much of the information that is used by the BOG in their calculation of the metrics is through 6 data files that are submitted periodically by the universities. This includes the:

- Admissions File
- Degrees Awarded File
- Hours to Degree File
- Retention File
- Student Financial Aid File
- Student Instruction File

Data that is ultimately submitted to the BOG through these electronic submissions is initially entered through the Admissions, Registrar, Financial Aid, and Controller’s departments into the Banner Student system. The Office of Institutional Research (IR) has been delegated responsibility for compiling the data into tables according to BOG specifications, conducting a quality review of the data prior to submission to the BOG, and timely submission of the files.

In accordance with BOG Regulation 3.007 “State University System (SUS) Management Information Systems,” the President has formally appointed an Institutional Data Administrator, who is the Director of Institutional Research. The Director has frequent contact with the BOG Institutional Research staff, strengthening his understanding of their complex requirements for the data in the files.

Audits similar to this one were conducted in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.



NOTABLE STRENGTH

The submission of accurate and complete data underlying the metrics is dependent upon having technical staff with the proper experience. The learning curve for these activities is long. The IR Director has been providing training in these matters to the IR Associate Director for over a year, considerably mitigating the risk to UWF of having a single knowledge holder for this critical process.

OBSERVATIONS

We interviewed key personnel involved in the processes that end with submission of data to the BOG that are used in the computation of metrics. We examined written policies and procedures and other related documents. Audit testing was conducted on data submitted to the BOG in order to evaluate accuracy and completeness. We found that internal controls over all processes were strong. We therefore make no recommendations.

We appreciate the cooperation, professionalism, and responsiveness of the employees who were involved in the audit.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Talbert, CFE, CIA, CICA, CPA, CRMA
Interim Internal Audit Director

REPORT PROVIDED TO THE FOLLOWING:

Dr. Martha Saunders, President
Mort O'Sullivan, Chair BOT
Bob Jones, Chair Audit & Compliance Committee
Dick Baker, Audit & Compliance Committee
Robert Sires, Audit & Compliance Committee
Dr. George Ellenberg, Provost/Sr. Vice President
Dr. Joffery Gaymon, Vice President
Dr. Kim LeDuff, Vice President
Betsy Bowers, Vice President
Dr. Kimberly McCorkle, Vice Provost
Pamela Langham, General Counsel
Melanie Haveard, ITS Executive Director and CTO
Keith King, Institutional Research Director
Colleen Asmus, Associate Vice President
Kelley Brundage, Registrar
Katie Condon, Admissions Director
Shana Gore, Financial Aid Director
Jaime Hoelscher, Manager, FL Auditor General
Ken Danley, Supervisor, FL Auditor General
Julie Leftheris, BOG Chief Inspector General
Lori Clark, BOG Compliance and Audit Specialist
Rebecca Luntsford, BOT Liaison



Performance Based Funding

March 2019 Data Integrity Certification

University Name: University of West Florida

INSTRUCTIONS: Please respond “Yes” or “No” for each representation below. Explain any “No” responses to ensure clarity of the representation you are making to the Board of Governors. Modify representations to reflect any noted audit findings.

Performance Based Funding Data Integrity Certification Representations			
Representations	Yes	No	Comment / Reference
1. I am responsible for establishing and maintaining, and have established and maintained, effective internal controls and monitoring over my university’s collection and reporting of data submitted to the Board of Governors Office which will be used by the Board of Governors in Performance Based Funding decision-making.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. These internal controls and monitoring activities include, but are not limited to, reliable processes, controls, and procedures designed to ensure that data required in reports filed with my Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors are recorded, processed, summarized, and reported in a manner which ensures its accuracy and completeness.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. In accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 1.001(3)(f), my Board of Trustees has required that I maintain an effective information system to provide accurate, timely, and cost-effective information about the university, and shall require that all data and reporting requirements of the Board of Governors are met.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. In accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 3.007, my university shall provide accurate data to the Board of Governors Office.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. In accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 3.007, I have appointed a Data Administrator to certify and manage the submission of data to the Board of Governors Office.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	


Performance Based Funding Data Integrity Certification

Performance Based Funding Data Integrity Certification Representations			
Representations	Yes	No	Comment / Reference
6. In accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 3.007, I have tasked my Data Administrator to ensure the data file (prior to submission) is consistent with the criteria established by the Board of Governors Data Committee. The due diligence includes performing tests on the file using applications/processes provided by the Board Office.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. When critical errors have been identified, through the processes identified in item #6, a written explanation of the critical errors was included with the file submission.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. In accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 3.007, my Data Administrator has submitted data files to the Board of Governors Office in accordance with the specified schedule.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. In accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 3.007, my Data Administrator electronically certifies data submissions in the State University Data System by acknowledging the following statement, "Ready to submit: Pressing Submit for Approval represents electronic certification of this data per Board of Governors Regulation 3.007."	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. I am responsible for taking timely and appropriate preventive / corrective actions for deficiencies noted through reviews, audits, and investigations.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. I recognize that the Board's Performance Based Funding initiative will drive university policy on a wide range of university operations - from admissions through graduation. I certify that university policy changes and decisions impacting this initiative have been made to bring the university's operations and practices in line with State University System Strategic Plan goals and have not been made for the purposes of artificially inflating performance metrics.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. I certify that I agreed to the scope of work for the Performance Based Funding Data Integrity Audit conducted by my chief audit executive.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	


Performance Based Funding Data Integrity Certification

Performance Based Funding Data Integrity Certification Representations, Signatures

I certify that all information provided as part of the Board of Governors Performance Based Funding Data Integrity Certification is true and correct to the best of my knowledge; and I understand that any unsubstantiated, false, misleading, or withheld information relating to these statements render this certification void. My signature below acknowledges that I have read and understand these statements. I certify that this information will be reported to the board of trustees and the Board of Governors.

Certification:  Date 2-15-19
President

I certify that this Board of Governors Performance Based Funding Data Integrity Certification has been approved by the university board of trustees and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Certification:  Date 2/14/19
Board of Trustees Chair