

MINUTES - DRAFT
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
TASK FORCE FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR ONLINE EDUCATION
AFFORDABILITY WORKGROUP
MEETING VIA CONFERENCE CALL
April 28, 2015

1. Call to Order

Chair Pam Northrup convened the meeting at 9:04 a.m. CST on April 28, 2015, with the following members present: President Judy Genshaft and President Judy Bense. A quorum was established. Other attendees were Cindy Deluca, Kim Wilmath, and Jose Coll from USF and Nancy McKee from the Florida Board of Governors.

2. Opening Statement

Chair Northrup explained the charge for the affordability subcommittee and how the other subcommittees charge has potential impact or at least likely some overlap in conversation. The charge is “Outline strategies for reducing costs to students and for achieving efficiencies that will reduce costs to institutions and the system, but not impair quality. These efficiencies should include collaborative ventures among institutions, such as resource sharing and joint development of online programs.”

3. Discussion

Chair Northrup gave a short overview of the affordability task force report that was presented at the March meeting (attached). Chair Northrup brought the past idea of conducting a survey of other universities to assess what other SUS universities are doing with respect to affordability. President Bense asked about how deep this committee needs to dive on the issue. Chair Northrup explained we need to focus on strategic goals and not tactical ones. Cindy believes the report is sufficient and one of the recommendations of the report should be to conduct the survey.

Chair Northrup stated that there has not been as much emphasis so far on the distance learning fee during this legislative session as anticipated. Chair Northrup also brought up the idea of removing the recommendation of collapsing additional campus-based fees in the immediate recommendations because there is not enough information. Jose Coll agreed. Cindy Deluca was concerned that limiting the strategy of just understanding the fee is not enough and may need to include additional steps to take. Chair Northrup agreed says she will review the issue and make it a little more action related that will move us forward in the identification of affordable fully online degree programs, taking into account the services and structure that a fully online student would need to successfully complete his or her degree program. Cindy Deluca said that she believes that the recommendations need to come from the full task force as they will have input for all three subcommittees. Nancy McKee agreed.

Chair Northrup explained the strategy of expanding the online marketplace to include more student services and utilize the FLVC to negotiate statewide shared services for online students. Cindy Deluca asked if it would be better to say that we should identify additional resources instead of being specific in order to let the full task force flesh out those specific details. Chair Northrup agreed.

Chair Northrup explained that the BOG submitted an LBR to provide funding for digital learning training and that funding would be awarded to a lead institution for them to “train the trainer”. This ITN was awarded to UCF pending funding. Chair Northrup also went over the idea of all universities sharing best practices in course design. President Genshaft said she was on board with the idea.

Chair Northrup explained how FIU is creating a repository of online adjuncts and coaches. Chair Northrup said this could be expanded statewide for all universities to pull from and asked if this should be included in the report or wait for FIU to master first. President Bense said we should include this as a strategy to include in the report.

Chair Northrup went over the idea of having a shared degree program to cover areas of high demand in order to be more flexible to meet market demand and to develop programs that may be too expensive for one institution to create. Nancy McKee said she currently conducting a survey of all online programs for all SUS institutions in order to create an inventory of online degree programs making it easier to identify gaps in online degree program offerings.

Chair Northrup explained the idea of expanding the use of etextbooks to further reduce the cost to students. Chair Northrup mentioned she is looking at how Ohio is utilizing etextbooks to reduce costs. Chair Northrup did state that the initial cost of etextbooks is much more expensive but the ROI is much better over time.

Chair Northrup went over the competency based education idea and how discussions with the Lumina Foundation and with the Florida College System are helping in developing the program. These cost reductions go to student but would require additional funding to develop the program.

Chair Northrup moved on to how universities can share infrastructure, such as a shared Learning Management System. Cindy Deluca brought up the idea of stating that we should move to using “common tools” and stay away from shared services. Nancy McKee agrees with using the term “common,” rather than “shared” for the LMS, so it does not imply that all universities would be using the same instance of the learning management system.

Chair Northrup explained the idea of creating experimental sites to foster and develop new ideas. She mentioned the example of UCF being made the experimental site on adaptive learning. This would lead to the creation of a best practices repository. Cindy Deluca believes this is a great idea.

Nancy McKee explained the process going forward with the strategic plan. The full task force will meet in June for a face to face meeting. The Workgroup papers are due at the end of June, at which time they will be given to a consultant to weave into a draft strategic plan for review by the Task Force at its face-to-face meeting in September. After edits, the proposed plan will then be discussed with the Board of Governors Innovation and Online Committee at its November meeting.

4. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Northrup, with no further business, adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m CST.

Dr. Pam Northrup, Chair

Andrew Romer