

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
GRAHAM CENTER, MODESTO A. MAIDIQUE CAMPUS  
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
MIAMI, FLORIDA  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2011**

Chairperson Ann Duncan convened the Board of Governors Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting at 8:30 a.m., September 15, 2011, in the Gibbons Alumni Center on the University of South Florida campus. The following committee members were present: Vice Chair Michael Long, Patricia Frost, Frank Martin, Gus Stavros, Commissioner Gerard Robinson, and Rick Yost. Governor Stanley Marshall was absent.

**1. Minutes of Prior Meeting**

Chair Duncan asked for a motion to approve the June 23, 2011 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded, and members of the Committee concurred.

**2. Academic Program Items**

**a) Remove Limited Access for the Bachelor of Science in Geomatics (University of Florida)**

Chair Duncan summarized the proposed status change for the UF BS in Geomatics program and explained that the program had been moved to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences with no intention of remaining limited access. The request was not made at the time of the program's movement. Approval would mean the program would no longer need to file annual reports on limited access status. Chair Duncan asked for a motion to approve which was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**b) Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering (University of Florida)**

**i. Request to Exceed 120 Credit Hours**

Chair Duncan explained that the University of Florida was asking that the BS in Biomedical Engineering be approved to exceed 120 credit hours in order to accommodate the necessary curriculum and to meet the Accreditation Board for Engineering & Technology requirements. Chair Duncan informed the committee that all

existing similar programs in the State University System have been approved to exceed 120 credit hours with the exception of the Geomatics program at Florida Atlantic University. Chair Duncan asked for a motion to approve which was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**ii. Request for Limited Access Status**

Chair Duncan summarized the UF request for Limited Access status and said that the proposed change is needed as the program is in high demand and operates with limited faculty and instructional facilities. In order to maintain quality standards, limiting enrollment to 70 students by 2015 was proposed. Chair Duncan asked for a motion of approval which was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 6.018**

This agenda item was deferred until the November committee meeting on the advice of the General Counsel in order to provide further clarification on the proposed amendments.

**4. Adult Degree Completion Initiative**

Chair Duncan introduced this presentation and expressed her ongoing interest in making adult degree completion a priority in the SUS. There are a significant number of former state university students who earned 60 to 90 credit hours or more, but that have yet to obtain a degree. Chair Duncan further explained that initiatives exist in other states and nationally to encourage adult degree completion. Chair Duncan asked university representatives Dr. Pamela Northrup (UWF) and Dr. Kathleen Moore (USF) to speak on this proposed initiative.

Dr. Moore told the committee about USF's Osher Reentry Scholar program which provides scholarships to students over the age of 25 who have completed most of the college degree and are now returning to the university. Dr. Moore summarized the one-page handout on the topic which illustrates statistics on jobs requiring bachelor's degrees, adults holding bachelor's degrees, and bachelor degree holder's having lower unemployment rates and higher pay grades. Dr. Moore listed the fastest growing occupations in Florida and explained that the initiative would help students with existing college credit reenroll to obtain degrees related to high need occupations. This particular initiative would target students with at least 60 hours of college credit and one component would be an assessment of prior learning (including non-classroom experiences, equivalency testing credit, etc.). The fundamental basis of the program would be a cooperative program agreement in which any State University System institution can participate. This program would include an informative web portal and

support services designed to facilitate the movement of adult learners through degree completion (orientation courses, study strategies, online learning resources, etc.).

Dr. Moore stressed the need for innovation in accelerated courses, flexible course time, and funding options. Dr. Moore said that the program is in its early development, but asserted that institutions can participate by creating appropriate curriculum programs and offering concentrations that can fit in other existing programs. The Florida Distance Learning Consortium is an important available resource as well as FACTS.org. Dr. Moore said the areas still needing attention were advocacy, marketing, the capability for prior learning assessment, and enhanced academic and student services. No information on cost had been developed.

Chair Duncan thanked both Dr. Moore and Dr. Northrup for their work on this initiative and asked for questions. Commissioner Robinson mentioned a similar program for community colleges in Virginia that secured funding through the Lumina Foundation, then applauded the work on the initiative and offered the suggestions of the Lumina Foundation and the Gates Foundation as possible sources of funding. USF President Genshaft mentioned this initiative will be helpful for veterans in need of assessment of their practical military experience in order to count for credit. UWF President Bense explained that her institution had been approached numerous times by professionals looking for ways to finish their degrees and how helpful this initiative will be in enabling these students to complete degrees. Chair Duncan requested a more refined business plan in November and added her hope for a program to be in place in the SUS by next summer or fall. A motion was made that asked the team that is working on the initiative to prepare the business plan mentioned earlier. The motion carried unanimously.

##### **5. Student Affairs Update**

Chair Duncan invited Dr. Maribeth Ehasz, Chair of the SUS Council for Student Affairs, to present an update on the council's recent SUS workshop.

Dr. Ehasz talked about the Health Insurance Consortium which involves five SUS institutions and said that the current broker has agreed to facilitate a standing SUS consortium workgroup that FGCU Vice President Mike Rollo has agreed to chair the SUS group. She then spoke on the completion of an assessment of student behavioral interventions and threat assessment practices based on the last meeting's discussion, the details of which will be shared in November. As this was the third week of fall term, Dr. Ehasz mentioned the successes of convocations and unfortunate tragedies already experienced by three institutions. She then lauded new initiatives existing at schools like Florida State University, University of Central Florida, and University of Florida to address existing risks. Dr. Ehasz informed the committee that student housing at all SUS institutions was full.

Chair Duncan asked if there were any questions for Dr. Ehasz. She then asked Committee Vice Chair Michael Long to present on the Florida Student Association.

Vice Chair Long briefed the committee on the FSA's approaching trip to DC for the purpose of lobbying for the needs of Florida's SUS. The FSA will introduce a new need-based scholarship in January. Vice Chair Long applauded Dean Colson for asking Board members to listen to student government presentations and mentioned the FSA legislative agenda is in line with the Board's legislative agenda.

Chair Duncan then updated the committee on the following: the SUS currently has a headcount of 9,400 enrolled student veterans, 34% of which are enrolled in science & engineering programs; the Board reached an agreement with the Marine Corps Installations East to implement the Leadership Scholar Program with the support of university participation and the first enrollments in the program should be expected next year; Provost Wilcox continues to work on the academic coordination issue; and lastly, Florida is hosting a STEM Summit 2 in Tampa later in September where Chancellor Brogan will be a key speaker.

## **6. Adjournment**

Chair Duncan thanked the Committee for their work and having no further business adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.