

**MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 9, 2011**

Chairperson Ann Duncan convened the Board of Governors Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting at 11:00 a.m., November 9, 2011, in the Premier Club Level, FAU Stadium on the Florida Atlantic University campus. The following committee members were present: Vice Chair Michael Long, Patricia Frost, Frank Martin, Commissioner Gerard Robinson, Gus Stavros, and Rick Yost. Governor Stanley Marshall previously indicated that he could not attend.

1. Minutes of Prior Meeting

Chair Duncan asked for a motion to approve the September 15, 2011 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded, and members of the Committee concurred.

2. Academic Program Items

- a. BS in Exceptional Student Education (CIP 13.1001), University of West Florida to exceed 120 credit hours to degree**
- b. B.S. in Elementary Education (CIP 13.1202), University of West Florida to exceed 120 credit hours to degree**

Chair Duncan explained that the University of West Florida was asking that its Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education and its Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education be approved to exceed 120 credit hours to degree. This request was made so that both programs can include coursework in ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and in Reading to meet Florida Department of Education program approval and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education accreditation requirements for teacher education programs. Chair Duncan asked for a motion to approve the UWF request, which was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- c. B.A. Liberal Arts (CIP 24.0199) to exceed 120 credit hours to degree, New College of Florida**

Chair Duncan explained that the New College of Florida (NCF) sought an exception for its Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts (CIP 24.0199) to exceed 120 credit hours to degree. Credit hour equivalencies equaling 124 credit hours have been in place since 1975 and serve as the basis for calculating tuition and transfer credit. Approval of the program to exceed 120 credit hours to degree provides a level of definitive documentation, especially when working with Florida Prepaid representatives as well as NCF students and their parents regarding degree requirements. Chair Duncan asked for a motion to approve the request, which was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

d. USF Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering (CIP 14.1401)

Chair Duncan explained that the University of South Florida requested the approval of a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering, CIP Code 14.1401. This new program replaces the current Environmental Engineering track offered within the Ph.D. in Civil Engineering, making it a specific stand-alone degree program. The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics, Employment and Wages, reported in May 2010 that Florida is second in the nation with the highest employment level for environmental engineers. The U.S. Bureau of Labor also predicts that environmental engineers are expected to have employment growth of 31 percent between now and 2018, one of the highest rates of all engineering disciplines and much faster than the average for all occupations.

The University of South Florida has addressed concerns over program duplication by initiating discussions with universities with similar programs and receiving letters of support from the two state universities that have doctoral programs in the same CIP code. Chair Duncan requested that USF representatives present the proposal.

Dr. Ralph Wilcox, USF Provost and Executive Vice President, presented the proposal for the program. Dr. Wilcox indicated that the program aligns with the Board strategic goals, aligns with the USF goal of building healthy communities, and meets statewide professional needs. The new degree was included in Board workplan for 2011 and has been endorsed by USF's Board of Trustees. The proposed program was reviewed positively by Board staff and received statewide letters of support from UF and UCF. The departmental review was conducted by engineers from Purdue University and Georgia Tech. The proposal has

been positively reviewed and recommended by Dr. Amy Childers, chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Nevada, previously the president of the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors. Environmental engineering focuses on the protection of human populations from the effects of adverse effects of natural human activity. The College of Engineering at USF worked closely with the Department of Public Health, the College of Marine Science, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Patel School for Global Sustainability as well as with industry and public sector agencies in the design and delivery of this proposal.

Dr. Wilcox noted that, as a stand-alone degree, Environmental Engineering provides a credential that recognizes the attainment of specialized knowledge and skill sets that will enhance the competitiveness of USF graduates in the marketplace. The program is expected to generate knowledge to strengthen Florida's innovation-based economy and help manage environmental stresses. He noted that the U.S. Department of Labor predicts that Environmental Engineering will witness a 31% growth though high-skill and high-pay jobs in the coming decade.

Dr. Wilcox introduced Dr. John Wiencek, Dean of the College of Engineering to address questions. Governor Duncan asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, Governor Duncan noted that the program's cost per FTE is very competitive and asked Dr. Wilcox to walk the committee through the cost structure for a better understanding.

Dr. Wilcox noted that the cost was competitive because the program was building upon existing resources and the financing of graduate assistants was made possible through funding from the National Science Foundation and other grants. Dr. Wiencek noted that the amount of sustained contracts and grants added up to \$2 million over the last decade consistently.

Governor Duncan asked for a motion of approval which was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

e. Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences (CIP 26. 0102)

Governor Duncan explained that Florida International University requested approval of a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences, CIP Code 26.0102. The program will be collaboratively offered by the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, the Department of Human and Molecular Genetics,

the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, the Department of Cellular Biology and Pharmacology, and the Department of Immunology. It is expected to strengthen FIU's new medical school and support the overall growth of the College and University. FIU has addressed concerns over program duplication by initiating discussions with and receiving letters of support from FSU, UF, UCF, and USF which have similar programs associated with their medical schools.

Governor Duncan invited Dr. Douglas Wartzok, Provost and Academic Vice President, to present the proposal for the program. Dr. Wartzok noted that this is a PhD program that will be shared among all the basic science departments in the College of Medicine. Students that are in this program will be sharing classes with medical students during the introductory portion of the medical curriculum. The advantages are that the M.D. students who decide to pursue an M.D./Ph.D. program would have had these introductory courses in their medical education curriculum while the PhD students who do not get an M.D. will get exposure to Medical Science. Dr. Wartzok noted that the proposal received letters of support, included in the proposal, from all the leaders in the medicine, health, and biosciences in South Florida. Also, the proposed program meets the Board goals relative to statewide professional workforce needs in healthcare. He noted that faculty in the College of Medicine received over \$8 million in external funding from the National Institutes of Health, and that this funding will support research and graduate assistants. Dr. Wartzok concluded with a quote from the external consultant, who noted that the proposal is very well designed and aligned with the College and the University and will significantly benefit students, residents, and businesses in the Miami and South Florida region. The consultant strongly recommended the program's implementation. Dr. Wartzok invited Dr. Joe Leigh Simpson, Associate Dean of the College of Medicine, to address further questions.

Governor Duncan noted that the proposed program was targeting a low enrollment number and asked Provost Wartzok to explain that as well as to clarify that there were no new state funds to be allocated for this program. Provost Wartzok noted that the numbers are fairly low with around 5 students enrolling and graduating each year. Additionally, he noted that the initial 10 faculty members were already fully funded and that external funding would support the students in the program.

Governor Duncan noted that the outside consultant suggested a course on informatics computing to be added to the curriculum and asked if that

is under consideration. Dean Simpson answered that currently the course was an elective and it would probably become a requirement in the future.

Governor Duncan asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she asked for a motion of approval which was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Notice to Amend Regulation 6.018 Substitution or Modification of Requirements for Program Admission, Undergraduate Transfer, and for Graduation for Students with Disabilities

Governor Duncan explained that the next item was a public notice to amend existing Regulation 6.018, Substitution or Modification of Requirements for Program Admission, Undergraduate Transfer, and for Graduation by Students with Disabilities. This action will conform to Sections 1007.264 and 1007.265, Florida Statutes, which were amended by the 2011 Florida Legislature. The proposed amended regulation has been reviewed by the university general counsels, members of the Council of Academic Vice Presidents, members of the Council of Student Affairs, state university student disability services directors, and other state university staff.

Governor Duncan noted that this item had been in the previous agenda and that further discussions with universities continued between then and the current meeting. She then asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she asked for a motion of approval which was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Notice to Amend Regulation 8.016 Academic Learning Compacts

Governor Duncan explained that the next item was a public notice to amend one of the existing regulations, currently named Academic Learning Compacts. While the amendments are generally technical in nature, because the subject of student learning outcomes is very important, Dr. LeMon was asked to provide a brief presentation on the subject of Academic Learning Compacts.

Dr. LeMon noted that the changes to this regulation were minimal and technical in nature and that the regulation has been brought to about half its original size. This regulation was promulgated to be a quality control mechanism with regard to baccalaureate education. Currently, there are 817 discrete baccalaureate programs across the SUS institutions, and during the last year 54,000 students received a baccalaureate degree. Academic Learning Compacts (ALCs), initiated in the SUS in 2004, address quality control issues in terms of how students and others

will know in advance the expected student learning outcomes when graduating from a specific baccalaureate program, how those outcomes are measured, and how they are used to improve the program. ALCs identify content knowledge, as well as communication and critical thinking skills. In addition, each ALC is expected to take into consideration the perspectives of potential employers and graduate programs. The information regarding ALCs is expected to be posted on university websites in a user friendly language. The universities are providing a yearly status report to the Board. Out of the 817 programs, 99% completed the identification of student learning outcomes, 98% posted them on websites, and 92% identified the assessment mechanism used for continuous improvement.

As an example, one of the programs was selected to illustrate how ALCs are used by the universities as assessment mechanisms. The selected program was USF's B.S. in Chemistry. Dr. Wilcox was invited to talk about how ALCs are working at USF. Dr. Wilcox offered comments on the role ALCs have been playing in terms of evaluating student and faculty performance. He noted that there has been a shift in focus from student access to student learning outcomes and attainment.

Governor Duncan thanked Dr. LeMon and Dr. Wilcox for the presentation and asked if information about employment likelihood and wages or income potential were included in the potential learning opportunities. Provost Wilcox noted that the role of potential employers was to help shape the learning outcomes and at this point the focus was on knowledge attainment and skill improvement.

Governor Duncan then asked if there were any questions, seeing none, she asked for a motion of approval which was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Student Affairs Updates

a. SUS Council for Student Affairs

Governor Duncan introduced Dr. Maribeth Ehasz, UCF Vice President for Student Development, to provide a brief update on student life issues.

Dr. Ehasz noted that a survey conducted by the vice presidents for student affairs was included in the agenda packet. It summarized the university's policies, best practices, and readiness to respond to student threats on campus.

Dr. Ehasz noted that the survey was administered earlier this fall and that all SUS institutions participated. The survey was in response to a request as to how universities identify students exhibiting unusual or threatening behavior.

Dr. Ehasz indicated that a multidisciplinary team comprised of counseling, student conduct, health center, and law enforcement members was established for receiving and assessing information about persons of concern. The team gathered additional information and, after assessing individuals, reached a consensus regarding whether or not the individual was a threat. Dr. Ehasz noted that UCF has an office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and members of the community can access the website and fill out forms regarding students of concern. Dr. Ehasz noted that there was a chart in the package which illustrated the best practices observed across the country when dealing with behavioral threats. The assessment showed what needed to be improved in terms of improving responses on SUS campuses. Potential future steps included creating more opportunities to share best practices in order to learn from the national arena, and bringing together individual students into an SUS council or committee. Dr. Ehasz invited questions.

Governor Duncan noted that this was a continuation of efforts trying to leverage best practices across the campuses and emphasized her interest in this issue. Governor Duncan then asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she asked Governor Long for an update on the Florida Student Association (FSA).

b. Florida Student Association

Governor Duncan introduced Governor and FSA President Michael Long to provide a brief update on FSA activities.

Governor Long noted that FSA was going through a restructuring phase and was still weighing options in terms of management. However, he said that an update would be provided in the next meeting. He also asked for suggestions in terms of staff and noted that the "Rally in Tally" has been set for January 26, 2012 and invited everyone to attend. In addition, Governor Long indicated that the President of the University of North Florida Student Government Association had been elected as Vice Chairman.

7. Update - Academic Program Coordination Project

Governor Duncan noted that the agenda packet included updates on the Academic Program Coordination Project and other System initiatives aimed at gaining academic efficiencies, including the Florida Institute for Oceanography, the Professional Science Masters Initiative, and the SUS Critical Languages Network. With regard to academic coordination, Governor Duncan noted that 59 programs

have been identified for corrective action or collaboration, 51 programs have been placed in inactive status, 74 programs were terminated or recommended for termination, and 128 programs were new and hence had low enrollment. She recognized the efforts that have been put into these activities and she thanked staff for their contributions to the project. She noted that this process offered a new way to look at information and an opportunity to see how it can be used to make decisions more strategically. Governor Duncan indicated that discussions will continue with the provosts, and that the next meeting will address potential next steps and how the information might be used going forward.

8. Update - Adult Degree Completion Pilot

Governor Duncan noted that the Adult Degree Completion Pilot workgroup continued to build out a business plan to implement a cooperative pilot program for the State University System. The pilot would initially target individuals who stopped out of a state university with more than 60 credits but no degree. The initial workgroup which consisted primarily of staff from USF and UWF has now been joined by staff from FAMU, UNF, UF, and FIU. She publically thanked these universities for lending their expertise to this effort.

Governor Duncan noted that, during the October 27 conference call, an agreement has been reached on developing a plan that built on an existing baccalaureate program at USF and a program that has been under development at UWF. Initially, degrees would be offered by these two institutions with concentrations that are aligned with state workforce needs, and the courses will be primarily online. Should they then choose to do so, other university members would be able to provide courses towards certain concentrations in which they have faculty expertise, or courses leading to specific certificates that can be imbedded into a concentration. She then noted that issues related to admission, advising, student support, and curriculum sharing still exist and need to be addressed. The workgroup has targeted January 2012 for having a more detailed description of the pilot along with cost assumptions for its implementation, as well as action steps.

9. Closing Remarks

Governor Duncan noted that there are a number of new federal regulations regarding eligibility for institutional participation in Title IV Financial Aid programs. One of these is a requirement for each institution to make available an online tool called a net price calculator, which is intended to help give students and families a more accurate estimate of real costs. She noted that if there are any questions the staff should be contacted.

10. Adjournment

Chair Duncan thanked the Committee for its work and having no further business adjourned the meeting at 11:50AM.