

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Innovation and Online Committee
Facilities Committee
May 12, 2016**

SUBJECT: The Impact of Online Education on Space Needs

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For discussion.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During his State of the System Address on January 21, 2016, Chair Kuntz issued this challenge:

“We’re also carefully measuring the return on investment from our capital projects and we need to maintain that focus to demonstrate to our stakeholders the true value of investing in the State University System. We should also be measuring the impact of increasing our online programs because online education, taken to scale across the SUS, affords an alternative means to address future capacity requirements. Where feasible, we need to work together to expand online course offerings to reduce the need for new brick and mortar facilities. So I would like to see the Facilities Committee create an interface with the Innovation and Online Committee to ensure that we look at the system holistically as we consider new capital projects.”

Subsequently, Governors Ned Lautenbach and Wayne Huizinga met with Board staff on February 24, 2016, at Florida Gulf Coast University to discuss the impact of online education on facilities needs. The Committee Chairs agreed that a joint meeting of their respective committees was essential, and asked that the meeting agenda focus on distance learning enrollment trends and the space needs projection formula, with universities addressing the following points in their respective presentations:

1. The institution's distance learning landscape (actual and planned FTE through 2021-2022), including the current number and type of staff who are providing dedicated support to online education.
2. The unique space requirements for online education at the institution.
3. The effect of distance learning enrollments – including fully online - and enrollments in hybrid courses on facility usage and planning at the institution's main and additional campuses, by type of space, including both E&G, such as classrooms, teaching labs, study space, library, and non-E&G space, such as student activities and parking.
4. The ways in which online enrollment trends have shaped the institution's recent capital funding requests.
5. Suggestions for the Board as it considers how to better plan and fund facilities in light of the growth in online enrollments, including additional reports, studies, or data that the Board may wish to consider.

Supporting Documentation Included: None

Facilitators/Presenters: Chairs Huizenga and Lautenbach