

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**Strategic Planning Committee**  
June 16-17, 2015

**SUBJECT:** State University System Affordability

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**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION**

For information

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

This year, the Board's Strategic Planning Committee is undertaking a year-long study that examines the major components of affordability and explores whether the State University System (SUS) is affordable for all students who are qualified and motivated to attend. At the last several meetings of the Strategic Planning Committee, Chancellor Criser made presentations on several aspects of university affordability in the SUS and nationally.

The Strategic Planning Committee will continue its discussion of affordability with the assistance of a presentation by Dr. Donald E. Heller, Dean of the College of Education at Michigan State University and a professor of higher, adult, and lifelong education. Dr. Heller is considered a national expert in the area of higher education finance and affordability. Prior to his appointment in January 2012, Dr. Heller was director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education and professor of education and senior scientist at Pennsylvania State University. He also held a faculty appointment at the University of Michigan. His teaching and research is in the areas of educational economics, public policy, and finance, with a primary focus on issues of college access and choice for low-income and minority students.

Dr. Heller has consulted on higher education policy issues with university systems and policymaking organizations in California, Colorado, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Washington, Washington DC, and West Virginia, and has testified in front of Congressional committees, state legislatures, and in federal court cases as an expert witness. Before his academic career, he spent a decade as an information technology manager at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Having analyzed data and reviewed Board of Governors affordability materials presented thus far, Dr. Heller will focus on two areas. First, he will attempt to identify the key affordability issues regarding public higher education in Florida that the Board of Governors should be addressing. Secondly, Dr. Heller will attempt to identify resources that may assist the Board as they examine current policies regarding affordability, including policies that have been implemented in other states that would be most relevant to the circumstances found in Florida.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** None

**Facilitators/Presenters:** Dr. Donald Heller