

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON 2+2 ARTICULATION
NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA
SARASOTA, FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

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and its Committees are accessible at <http://www.flbog.edu>.*

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Alan Levine convened the meeting on September 21, 2016 at 1:04 p.m. with the following members present and answering roll call: Governors Levine, Link, Huizenga, Lautenbach, and Tripp. A quorum was established.

2. 2+2 Best Practice: University of Central Florida's DirectConnect

Governor Levine reviewed the information presented to the Committee since the first meeting in March. He noted that in March Mr. Matt Bouck provided the Committee with an overview of statewide articulation law and policies. At that same meeting, Vice Chancellor Ignash shared data on how well 2+2 transfer students were doing once they enrolled in one of the state universities. At the June meeting Chancellor Madeline Pumariega with the Division of Florida Colleges provided an overview of Florida College System research and issues related to statewide articulation policy and processes.

Governor Levine shared the following key elements from the Committee's first two meetings.

- The Department of Education provides leadership and support for policies and programs that facilitate student access and transfer.
- The Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) has primary responsibility for monitoring the statewide articulation agreement.
- The Florida College System is a regional and national leader in producing AA graduates.
- Half of all AA graduates from the Florida College System enroll in one our state universities.
- 2+2 promotes recognition and utilization of the Florida College System as a point of entry for postsecondary education, and the articulation agreement provides the pathway to upper division programs at the university and the college.
- AA transfer students are a significant source of SUS enrollments.

- Our state universities work very closely with the Florida colleges to facilitate transfer.
- 27% of AA transfer students graduate within 2 years of transferring to an SUS institution and 68% graduate within 4 years of transferring.

In setting the focus of the meeting, as outlined in the work plan approved on June 23, Governor Levine then stated “Are there best practices in 2+2 that can and should be implemented more broadly across our system in response to problem areas?”

Governor Levine then introduced Dr. J. Jeffrey Jones, Vice Provost for Regional Campuses at the University of Central Florida (UCF).

Dr. Jones provided an overview of how the DirectConnect program has helped improve access and student success. He noted that the program, now in its tenth year, has increased substantially since it was implemented in 2005-06. In 2005-06, UCF enrolled approximately one-fourth of all transfer students in the SUS and now they enroll one-third and 84% of transfers come to UCF with an associate’s degree.

He stated that DirectConnect improves access and success by increasing the number of students who successfully transition from an FCS institution to UCF and complete a bachelor’s degree. UCF has accomplished this by enhancing the existing statewide 2+2 program through strong partnerships with six FCS institutions. Leaders, faculty, and staff of UCF and FCS partner institutions regularly meet to discuss various aspects of the DirectConnect program and workforce needs. Faculty from FCS institutions and UCF work together to better align the curriculum on both sides and they have collaborated in the development of the FCS meta-majors. Emphasis has been placed on programs that respond to student and societal demand. For example, UCF has partnered with two FCS institutions to offer a nursing program in which students are concurrently enrolled at an FCS institution and UCF, allowing students to complete the program faster.

Dr. Jones noted that since 2009, over 30,000 degrees have been awarded through the DirectConnect program and that most of the graduates are working in Florida. He also stated that DirectConnect has increased diversity at UCF as one-third of the DirectConnect students are first generation students and over half come from an underrepresented minority group.

Dr. Jones concluded by highlighting two challenges for UCF going forward. One is the increasing number of transfer students, who now outnumber the first-time college students. The other is how to expand pathways for transfer students while also pursuing pre-eminent status.

Governor Levine inquired about the path for students who complete program prerequisites but who do not meet the academic requirements for their preferred program. Dr. Jones stated that they work closely with students in that type of situation to identify an appropriate path for them.

Governor Levine also asked about how well and how soon information is communicated to students so that they know which courses will count towards the requirements for a bachelor's degree. Dr. Jones noted that it is an ongoing issue but that common course numbering does help and that UCF is hoping to implement some technological solutions that would make it easier to evaluate courses for transfer credit.

Governor Tripp asked if UCF works with nearby FCS institutions who want to develop bachelor's degree programs that may compete with existing UCF programs. Dr. Jones stated that they do work very closely to identify the workforce needs and develop a plan for meeting the needs.

4. 2+2 Best Practice: University of South Florida's FUSE Program

Governor Levine introduced Dr. Paul Dosal from the University of South Florida.

Dr. Dosal thanked Governor Levine and introduced Dr. Jesse Coraggio, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Academic Services at St. Petersburg College, and Dr. Paul Nagy, Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Planning and Analysis. Dr. Dosal then described how the newly implemented FUSE Program was designed to enhance the existing statewide 2+2 articulation agreement while also addressing two specific issues. One issue is the number of students who transferred without the required coursework. The second is the number of students graduating with excess credit hours.

Dr. Dosal stated that USF developed specific program pathways to accelerate student progression towards a bachelor's degree, which addresses both access and success. To aid in the transition, USF treats FUSE program students at the partner FCS institutions as USF students from the start. He reviewed the pathway developed for the accounting program and noted how it very clearly, and concisely, outlines what the prerequisites and program requirements are so that students understand right away what is expected. Dr. Dosal noted that the pathways were developed collaboratively by advisors and faculty from USF and partner FCS institutions.

Dr. Dosal noted that FUSE is now in the implementation phase and that program is expanding to include other FCS institutions this fall. Dr. Nagy reinforced the importance of strong partnerships and good relationships, and emphasized a strong desire to increase college completion. He described the FUSE program as an ecosystem that includes the best of both systems. Dr. Coraggio stated that there is a responsibility

to give students a clear pathway and that the value of the FUSE program comes from the pathways created for students and from the relationships between the deans at both institutions who collaborated to developing the pathways.

Governor Tripp inquired as to how students are directed to these pathways. Dr. Corragio stated that students are no longer told to take a variety of courses and figure out what they want to do, but rather a lot of work is done upfront with students to identify their academic and career goals. He also noted that the pathways are built with some amount of flexibility so that students can change paths more easily. Dr. Nagy noted that 11 pathways have been developed so far in response to the needs of the job market.

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Governor Levine observed that the statewide guarantee is meaningless to students unless there's a pathway and that USF and UCF have gone beyond the state promise and also aligned with the workplace. He also noted that clearly defined pathways help students better manage their expectations and that the presentations laid a path for a system-wide discussion.

Governor Kuntz inquired about the Committee's next steps and the plan for coming to a conclusion while working with the FCS. Governor Levine stated that the Committee is following the work plan that was approved on June 23 and that the Committee is on schedule. He noted that in November the Committee will begin discussing strategies and that the Committee will have a workshop in January as indicated in the work plan.

Governor Levine stated that he has learned that articulation works well in Florida and that doing too much may set things back. He also observed that the next phase of articulation will likely be entrepreneurial, as evidenced by the programs presented during this meeting, with incremental changes to benefit students rather than system-level solutions.

Governor Tripp inquired as to how all universities would be required to implement some of these best practices. Governor Levine noted that it was important to consider the matter and that each university has a specific opportunity to work with the FCS institutions in order to make the statewide guarantee more meaningful to students.

Having no further business, Chair Levine adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

Christy England, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic
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Alan Levine, Chair