

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Strategic Planning Committee
June 10, 2013

SUBJECT: Institute for Online Learning

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Subsection 1001.7065, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 2013-27, Laws of Florida

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The 2013 Legislature enacted, and the Governor approved, CS/CS/SB 1076, codified as Chapter 2013-27, Laws of Florida, which, among other things, created the preeminent state research universities program in section 1001.7065, Florida Statutes.

The law specifies that a university that meets all 12 of the academic and research excellence standards, as verified by the Board of Governors, is to establish an institute for online learning. The institute is to “establish a robust offering of high-quality, fully online baccalaureate degree programs at an affordable cost in accordance with this subsection.” The University of Florida is the only institution that meets all 12 standards.

The Board is required to convene an advisory board by August 1, 2013, to offer advice to the university in its development and implementation of a business plan to expand the offering of fully online baccalaureate degree programs; to advise the Board on the release of funding for the plan; and to monitor, evaluate, and report on the implementation of the plan to the Board, the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

By September 1, 2013, the designated university must submit the comprehensive plan to expand fully online baccalaureate programs to the advisory board. Upon

recommendation of the plan by the advisory board and approval by the Board of Governors, the Board shall award the university \$10 million in nonrecurring funds and \$5 million in recurring funds for fiscal year 2013-2014 and \$5 million thereafter, subject to appropriation in the General Appropriations Act (GAA). The 2013-2014 GAA includes, within the university's lump sum appropriation, \$15 million designated for this purpose in legislative work papers.

Supporting Documentation Included: None

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