

MINUTES  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
INNOVATION AND ONLINE COMMITTEE  
NEW COLLEGE of FLORIDA  
SARASOTA, FL  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

1. Call to Order

Chair Ed Morton convened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. on September 13, 2018, with the following members present: Governors Ed Morton, Sydney Kitson, Tim Cerio, Shawn Felton, Jay Patel, Norman Tripp, and Jalisa White. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

Governor White moved that the committee approve the minutes of the June 27, 2018 meeting, as presented. Governor Cerio seconded the motion, and the members concurred.

3. Complete Florida Degree Initiative

Dr. Pam Northup, Vice President of the University of West Florida Division of Research and Strategic Innovation, provided an overview of the Complete Florida Degree Initiative. This statewide funded initiative identifies students in the state who have completed some college coursework, but have not completed an undergraduate degree, and provides information and support services to enable these students to return to college to complete a degree, particularly in degree programs where there is workforce demand for graduates.

Dr. Michelle Horton, Director of Complete Florida, provided an update on the initiative and reported that over 2.1 million working-age Floridians have achieved some college credit but have not completed a bachelor's degree. Complete Florida has found that the primary concerns of these students are time, money, and family obligations. The Complete Florida program provides these Floridians with the ability to understand and navigate the options available for degree completion which include: accelerated terms, alternative credits, competency-based degree completion, transfer evaluations, and prior learning assessments.

Dr. Horton reported that Complete Florida has 14 school partnerships throughout the state including 5 public universities, 5 public colleges, and 4 private universities. There are more than 130 fully online programs in areas of healthcare, education, IT, business, and general degree completion. Governor Morton encouraged the program to pursue

partnerships with the state universities that were not participating. Dr. Horton responded that there are three other SUS partnerships that are currently being established and reminded the committee that Complete Florida exclusively deals with undergraduate students. She added that there are also many state and national collaborations being utilized, and there has been stop-out campaigns instituted, industry pathway programs developed, and connections with employers made to aid their employees to pursue and complete a baccalaureate degree.

When a student applicant is accepted in to the Complete Florida program, each student is assigned a professional “Success Coach” who provides ongoing and wide ranging assistance. The coaches work with a contact at the appropriate postsecondary institution to ensure that students are enrolled, are prepared for the degree requirements, and have the resources needed to complete the degree. Each coach connects with their student multiple times throughout each semester via personal visits, email, and phone, providing the necessary academic information and support services needed to complete the degree program.

In the 2017-2018 academic year, there were 2,052 students enrolled (a 12% increase) with 27% of students having military affiliation. 8,937 students were working with coaches in preparation for admission and 12,000 were contacted during stop-out campaigns. Dr. Horton reported that there have been 1,086 graduates since the program started. Additionally, scholarships have been utilized: \$490,018 during this academic year and \$1.2 million overall in scholarships have been awarded since the program’s inception.

#### 4. MyCareerShines

Dr. Mike Dieckmann, Associate Vice President of the University of West Florida and the CEO of Florida Virtual Campus, introduced the MyCareerShines (MCS) program. MyCareerShines is Florida’s comprehensive education and career planning system for students and job seekers. Floridians can assess their interests and skills, explore careers, plan their related education, and prepare for work. The program serves an engaged network of state entities collaborating to develop a strong workforce, and helps Floridians succeed in the increasingly competitive global market.

MyCareerShines has been funded by legislative appropriation since 2014. The initial focus in 2015 was providing information and services for middle and high school students through the “Navigator” model and then later through the “Journey” module, which was expanded and made available to post-secondary students, all citizens in the state of Florida, and active military members stationed in the state. In 2016, the website was expanded and information was added on Bright Futures Scholarships, education planning integration, Florida-specific occupational data, and a Spanish version. In 2017,

information was added on career and technical courses for middle and high schools and meta majors for college planning.

This year, MyCareerShines is rolling out the “Galaxy” program that targets elementary students, and will provide additional skills for counseling, and additional avenues for collaboration among Florida postsecondary institutions.

Ms. Nashla Dawahre, Director of Student Services of Florida Virtual Campus and the Project Lead of MyCareerShines, provided a video demonstration of the utilization of MyCareerShines. She explained how students or citizens can create a personalized account for a more meaningful information-gathering experience. The program can enable a student to transition through each grade level with age-appropriate information. Ms. Dawahre reported that, to date, there have been 578,970 total registered users and 896,050 completed assessments. Of the total users, 83% are middle or high school students, 12% are college and university students, and 5% are adults. There are 2,719 participating middle or high schools and 452 colleges or adult agencies. Additionally, institutions are able to track students’ progress and assessments.

##### 5. Multiple Accelerated Terms

Dr. Vicki Brown, Assistant Provost for eLearning at Florida Atlantic University, summarized the findings of the report: Evaluation of Accelerated Degree Models, that was completed by the Online Steering Committee’s Student Support Work Group. The workgroup surveyed state universities to identify which accelerated models that institutions are using and found three primary initiatives. The first program is “Multiple Starts” which provide embedded short-term courses or mini-mesters into the current semester structure. Multiple Starts also allows students to focus more on each class since their course load is not as large. The next model discussed was “Intersessions” which are extremely short semesters that fit between the traditional fall-to-spring, spring-to-summer, and summer-to-fall semesters. Dr. Brown reported that students are able to reduce time to graduation by enrolling in an additional course or courses between semesters. Finally, a “Rolling Enrollment” program is the most flexible and allows students to enroll at any time and requires universities to start students’ enrollment whenever they are ready. This could occur inside or outside the regular semesters. While it is the most difficult and costly model, it allows students to work at their own pace.

The Online Steering Committee approved the report and recommended that the report be posted on the Online Education link at the State University System Board of Governors website and to announce the report’s availability at the upcoming CAVP meeting. The Online Committee concurred and approved this action.

## 6. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Morton discussed his participation in the Online Steering Committee meeting on the previous day, and summarized committee discussions that included the role of online learning in increasing graduation rates, cost containment initiatives, the alignment of online programs with the employment needs of Florida, and the need for expansion of electronic textbooks and innovative instructional materials.

Governor Morton adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

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Edward Morton, Chair

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Jon Rogers, Associate Vice Chancellor