

MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
INNOVATION AND ONLINE COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
TAMPA, FLORIDA
September 16, 2020

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Kent Stermon convened the meeting at 10:37 a.m. on September 16, 2020, with the following members present: Vice Chair Cerio; H. Wayne Huizenga, Jr.; Charles Lydecker; Ally Schneider; Dr. William Self; and Norman Tripp. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

Governor Lydecker moved that the committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 21, 2020. Governor Tripp seconded the motion, and the members concurred.

3. Legislative Budget Request for Essential and Centralized Support Services for Libraries, Distance Learning, and Student Studies

Dr. Nancy McKee, Associate Vice Chancellor, presented the Essential and Centralized Support Services Legislative Budget Request. She gave a brief background of the services to put the request in context. She said that there had been four entities that had provided support services to either libraries, distance learning, or student services for one or both of the delivery systems, the State University System and the Florida College System. In 2012, the Legislature consolidated these four entities and named the new program the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC). She said that a competitive process was used to select the University of Florida to host the program.

She said that in 2014, the Legislature added another program, the Complete Florida Degree Program (CFDP), which provided services to adults who had earned some credit, but had never finished their degree programs. The CFDP and the Florida Virtual Campus were placed in a newly created program, the Complete Florida Plus Program, which was statutorily placed at the University of West Florida.

Dr. McKee indicated that the funding for the Complete Florida Plus Program was vetoed for 2021. As soon as that happened, a transition team was created to phase out the program, while ensuring that essential services were continued.

She said the Board Office worked with the Department of Education and the Florida College System staff to survey stakeholders in both delivery systems to identify essential services. Those services not identified as essential were phased out. She said that costs were calculated to continue essential services, and all presidents in both delivery systems agreed to fund those essential services during the current fiscal year. The transition team used a competitive process to select a new host institution and a memorandum of agreement is being developed with the selected host.

In terms of essential library functions, Dr. McKee stated that libraries need to order and receive their invoice materials, check materials in and out, provide interlibrary loans, allow faculty and students to search for and locate materials, and provide access to e-resources. All of these resources are provided by the Integrated Library System that is used by all institutions in both delivery systems. She said that the ILS allowed students and faculty to conduct almost 21 million searches in 2019, check out more than 3 million library materials, and conduct more than 37 million searches of e-resources provided by FLVC. This usage data reflects usage in both the Florida College System and the State University System.

As examples of cost savings realized through centrally providing services, Dr. McKee said that \$6.9 million for e-resources are currently negotiated and licensed centrally and are used by students, faculty and staff throughout the State University System and Florida College System. If each institution had to separately license these resources, it would cost the state \$19 million. She said the new ILS will cost \$1.75 million, whereas if the current ILS were to be installed at each institution, it would cost the state \$15.8 million. It is currently costing the state \$476,000 for annual maintenance of the ILS, but if each institution had its own ILS, annual maintenance would be \$2.4 million.

Dr. McKee said that essential services also include the distance learning catalog. In 2019 the catalog contained over 61,500 course sections. Essential services also include the transient student application process, which transmits applications of students who wish to take courses at institutions other than their home institution. Over 60,000 transient student applications were processed through the FLVC last year.

She indicated that the Legislative Budget Request is for \$20.9 million and includes funds for centralized services, such as information technology staff, budgeting and accounting staff, and facilities costs that are used to support the delivery of all these services. The \$20.9 million also includes a 3% overhead fee for services provided by the host institution. Approximately half of the request is expected to be provided by the DOE on behalf of the Florida College System.

Governor Tripp moved to recommend to the Budget and Finance Committee approval of the \$20,912,822 Legislative Budget Request for Essential and

Centralized Support Services for Libraries, Distance Learning, and Student Services. Governor Lydecker seconded the motion, and members concurred.

4. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Stermon adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Kent Stermon, Chair

Nancy C. McKee, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor