

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Academic and Research Excellence Committee
March 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 9.012, Foreign Influence and Low-Risk Programs for Countries of Foreign Concern List

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Consider approval of Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 9.012, Foreign Influence and the Low-Risk Programs for Countries of Foreign Concern List.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Section 288.860, Florida Statutes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In May 2023, the Florida Legislature passed SB 846, which amended Section 288.860, Florida Statutes. The amended statute establishes requirements for participating in partnerships and agreements with and receiving grants from foreign principals of specified foreign countries of concern. Section 288.860, Florida Statutes defines countries of concern as the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicholas Maduro, or the Syrian Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity under significant control of such foreign country of concern. The statute specifies that state universities may not participate in any partnership or agreement with any foreign principal from a country of concern without the Board of Governors' approval. The statute authorizes that the Board may approve partnerships or agreements deemed valuable and that are not detrimental to the safety or security of the United States or its residents.

Regulation 9.012 outlines the process for the universities to enter into agreements or partnerships with foreign principals in countries of concern. The university board of trustees must submit a request for the Board to consider for approval.

The proposed amendment to Regulation 9.012 establishes a list of low-risk programs for countries of foreign concern. If universities establish partnerships or agreements with foreign principals from countries of concern in programs on this list, these partnerships or agreements will be deemed approved by the Board. The proposed amendment provides certain requirements for legal compliance for all partnerships and agreements. The proposed amendment also clarifies that agreements include employment agreements for graduate research assistants.

If approved by the Academic and Research Excellence Committee and the Board of Governors, the amended regulation will be available for public comment for 14 days. If no concerns are raised during that time, the regulation will come before the Board of Governors for final approval at the next meeting.

The committee will also consider for approval the Low-Risk Programs for Countries of Foreign Concern List as established in the proposed amendment to Regulation 9.012. The list would go into effect upon the Board of Governors' final approval of the amendment to Regulation 9.012.

Ms. Emily Sikes, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, will provide an overview of the proposed amendment and list.

Supporting Documentation Included:

1. Regulation 9.012, Foreign Influence
2. Low-Risk Programs for Countries of Foreign Concern List

Facilitators/Presenters:

Ms. Emily Sikes