

INDEX OF MINUTES
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL AND VIRTUAL MEETING
TALLAHASSEE, FL
MAY 28, 2020

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

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1. Call to Order

On May 28, 2020, Chair Sydney Kitson convened the telephone conference and virtual meeting at 2:12 p.m. with the following members present and answering roll call: Vice Chair Brian Lamb; Tim Cerio; Aubrey Edge; Shawn Felton; Patricia Frost; H. Wayne Huizenga, Jr.; Zenani Johnson; Darlene Jordan; Alan Levine; Charles Lydecker; Steven Scott; Kent Stermon and Norman Tripp.

2. Public Comment

Chair Kitson asked the Board's General Counsel Vikki Shirley if there were any requests for public comment for items on the Board's agenda. Ms. Shirley stated there were six requests for public comment.

Mr. Marshall Ogletree, the Executive Director of the United Faculty of Florida, indicated the *State University System of Florida Blueprint for Reopening Campuses* represents a good template to follow, but expressed concern that most discussions dealing with reopening the universities have not been open to faculty members for their input. He encouraged university presidents to reach out to their respective union chapters so that faculty voices would become part of the discussions. He stated that recommendations from the United Faculty of Florida would be forwarded to the Chancellor next week.

Ms. Robin Goodman, representing the United Faculty of Florida, expressed support of Mr. Ogletree's position regarding the need for faculty input.

Dr. Jaffar Shahul-Hameed, representing the United Faculty of Florida, thanked the Board of Governors for directing the transition of the State University System to remote instruction on March 11, 2020. He agreed there should be faculty input into reopening the universities and asked the Board to consider who is involved in the development of these policies and how the infrastructure needed for reopening campuses will be funded.

Ms. Karen Morian, President of the United Faculty of Florida, noted over 2 million Floridians have filed for unemployment. She said keeping individuals in their jobs will be a big part of the reopening of universities and that technologies and medical science will be crucial. Acknowledging that the CARES Act provides some funding for the institutions, she advocated in favor of the HEROES Act, pending federal stimulus legislation that she believes will bring more money into the state for education. Ms.

Morian asked the Board to ensure that Florida is eligible for the HEROES Act money by not cutting the budget, and urged the Board to join the United Faculty of Florida in its efforts to lobby in favor of the legislation.

Ms. Carolynne Gischel, a Florida Gulf Coast University faculty member, spoke as a long-time educator, a faculty member, and a concerned Florida resident. Ms. Gischel supports the State University System Blueprint for Reopening Campuses recommendations and agrees with the general guidelines, including the need for flexibility in providing instruction and that reopening is a shared responsibility of all involved. She asked the Board to protect funding for public universities, to remain focused on high quality education, and to involve United Faculty of Florida leadership in the plan for reopening.

Mr. Matthew Lata, representing the United Faculty of Florida FSU Chapter, submitted a public comment request in advance of the meeting but was not present.

3. State University System of Florida Blueprint for Reopening Campuses

Chair Kitson thanked everyone for attending the meeting, especially during such extraordinary times. He said it was heart wrenching to hear about those who have died, but at the same time, it is important to celebrate the incredible courage of the people on the frontline of this pandemic. He acknowledged how the universities have stepped up during such difficult times and applauded their outreach throughout the state.

Chair Kitson said he was honored to be appointed by Governor DeSantis to serve on the Governor's Task Force to Reopen Florida, which included leaders in business, industry, government, hospitality, and education from all around the state. He said he learned about the critical actions required and the key priorities that must be addressed in order to effectively re-open each part of the state's economy. During the period of the Task Force's work, the Board and the 12 state universities were already fully engaged in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with two priorities at the forefront: (1) to maintain the health and well-being of the students and staff, and (2) to retain the core academic mission of teaching and learning.

Chair Kitson said using the Task Force recommendations, the Governor announced a "*Safe, Smart, Step-by-Step Plan for Florida's Recovery*", which began a phased-in reopening of the state based on data and metrics. To focus in on the State University System, he established a SUS Task Force in early May, consisting on each state university president and each Board of Trustee Chair, to develop a *State University System of Florida Blueprint for Reopening Campuses* for Fall Semester 2020. Chair Kitson state that a working group of camps staff who are leading planning for each institution's reopening met in conjunction with the Task Force to provide input for development of the guidelines. Provosts, administrative and financial affairs vice presidents, medical and health affairs directors, and emergency managers were also

included in the working group. Chair Kitson then said the Task Force had been meeting weekly to identify critical elements for a Blueprint document that would guide the 12 state universities, as each one develops and individualized plan to reopen. Chair Kitson said the Blueprint for Reopening Campuses will help the System to be stronger and more successful in regards to achieving goals and focusing on the health and wellness of students, faculty, staff, vendors and visitors. The 12 universities will be focused and unwavering in their delivery of high quality academic programs and services. Chair Kitson stated that this commitment will enable the universities to continue to meet the Board's academic performance and student success goals.

Chair Kitson thanked Surgeon General Scott Rivkees and the Department of Health for their help in reviewing the Blueprint and their ongoing collaboration as campuses plan to reopen in the fall. Chair Kitson thanked the presidents and board chairs for their input throughout the process, as well as Chancellor Criser and the Board staff for their work and passion for student success. Chair Kitson then called on Chancellor Criser to discuss the Task Force and Blueprint.

Chancellor Criser noted the State University System is comprised of over 420,000 students and nearly 74,000 faculty and staff. Important to the process was recognizing the number of individuals who will be returning in Fall 2020 and the fact about 72 percent of students who attend state universities come from counties outside the geographical area where the university is located. Chancellor Criser said it is critical to continue collaborating with the Department of Health and the Department of Emergency Management, and to understand what the needs will be as we move forward.

Chancellor Criser then walked through the *State University System of Florida Blueprint for Reopening Campuses*. He emphasized the Blueprint rests on the concept of shared responsibility with students, faculty, staff, and administrators who have to work together to support the guidelines in order to make the reopening of campuses successful. He said it is important for everyone to understand social distancing and personal protective device guidelines, and how they will be implemented on our campuses. There will be training for all students and employees on the requirements in the individual university plans. While the main focus is on academics at the front end, there will be an expansion of student extracurricular activities as the campus community embraces the shared responsibility placed on each person to comply with the guidelines. There will also be shared responsibility for regular cleaning and disinfection of university facilities.

In parallel with the guidelines for a healthy campus, the Blueprint seeks to promote a healthy community environment. This includes a shared responsibility among students, faculty, staff, vendors, volunteers, visitors, and surrounding businesses and community members. He stressed the importance of partnering with local governmental leaders, business owners, and healthcare providers to develop a sense of shared responsibility for maintaining a healthy community.

The Blueprint also requires universities to develop plans for testing and screening for COVID-19 and follow-up plans for individuals who have tested positive for the virus. The

Task Force included a clinical advisory body comprised of physicians and other university representatives who have been directly involved with screening, testing, and contact tracing. Chancellor Criser stated the System is exploring opportunities where a university with greater resources may be able to assist other universities that may not have access to the same kinds of resources.

With regard to contact tracing, the Blueprint directs universities to work with the Department of Health and local county health departments to determine if universities can assist the Department in contact tracing efforts for individuals who have tested positive. Chancellor Criser said we need to be able to respond quickly when we see a cluster of cases, and make sure there is a continued partnership with health officials and health care providers on our campuses.

The Blueprint provides for universities to continue to use technology to deliver classes in a variety of delivery modes, including face-to-face and online. Universities should also adjust class sizes, course scheduling, and review calendar options when delivering on the academic mission. He noted there will be continued training for faculty to ensure versatility and that flexibility between students, faculty, and staff will be the foundation for the resilience needed going forward.

Ms. Johnson asked if students with pre-existing health conditions will have the option to return to campus or continue to work remotely. Chancellor Criser said the hope is to tailor the academic delivery in such a way that we are meeting the student where the student wants to be met. Chancellor Criser said we want a platform that will allow students to start their education, continue their education, and complete their education so we can be successful together. Ms. Johnson inquired if all resource centers will be open (cafeterias, libraries, etc.) or if it is in the early planning phase. Chair Kitson stated the Blueprint is to provide System guidance with clear expectations for each university to develop an individualized plan for its campus.

Mr. Lydecker stated the Blueprint is excellent, especially the emphasis on personal responsibility expected of all faculty, students, administration and constituencies that make up a campus environment. Mr. Lydecker said personal responsibility includes social distancing, respecting and knowing when to use a face mask, informing school officials when a person is not feeling well, and getting tested. The Blueprint would not be fully operational without personal responsibility.

Mr. Stermon inquired about the process for considering the concerns raised by faculty, especially those that were voiced during the public comment period. Chair Kitson indicated the Task Force meets once a week and moving forward, there will be discussion with chairs and presidents to determine the best vehicle for obtaining feedback. Mr. Felton said the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates has been meeting regularly to discuss the reopening of campuses. He thanked Chancellor Criser and Board staff for their involvement in these discussions and believes some of the concerns expressed during the public comment period are being addressed through other meetings that are taking place.

Chair Kitson said university plans are due on June 12 to the Chancellor. On June 23, the Board will meet at UCF to consider the university plans.

Mr. Lydecker moved approval of the *State University System of Florida Blueprint for Reopening Campuses*. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion, and the members concurred unanimously.

4. Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Scott moved approval of the slate of items on the Consent Agenda. Ms. Frost seconded the motion, and the members concurred unanimously.

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Chair Kitson announced the next meeting of the Board will be held on June 23, 2020 at the University of Central Florida. The plan is for the meeting to be conducted in-person and for members who are unable to attend in person to use UCF's WebEx platform. There will also be an additional meeting in July, with more information to come. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m. on May 28, 2020.

Sydney Kitson, Chair

Vikki Shirley,
Corporate Secretary