

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Update

October 21, 2008

SUBJECT: Community College Updates -- State College Task Force, State College Pilot Project, and Amendment 8

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Information/Discussion

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Florida College System Task Force and Pilot College Project

The joint meeting of the Florida College System Task Force and the State College Pilot Project was held in Tampa on October 2, 2008. Dr. Richard Richardson, New York University Professor and Consultant to the Task Force, framed the discussion by providing a national perspective to the transition work being done in Florida to increase access to baccalaureate degrees. Dr. Richardson's remarks, which are attached, were incorporated into the dialogue that followed reports made by each of the workgroup chairpersons. Members of the joint meeting were very pleased that Dr. Desai was able to attend and participate. It was apparent from the comments made by the members of the Pilot State College and the Task Force that there is much commonality of thought on the issues being addressed by both groups.

The Pilot State College group will meet via telephone conference call on October 16, 2008, to review and revise a draft report. The task force workgroup chairpersons will reconvene their groups by the end of October. Their objective will be to complete their recommendations for consideration by the full taskforce. The next task force meeting will be on November 13, 2008, in Tallahassee. The goals of this all day meeting will be to reach consensus on the recommendations coming from the three workgroups and to deliberate on the funding models for the Florida College System.

Amendment 8

Amendment 8 will be included on the ballot for voters to consider on November 4. The ballot language for the amendment is:

“Constitutional Amendment: Article VII, section 9: Local Option Community College Funding. Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require that the Legislature authorize counties to levy a local option sales tax to supplement community college funding; requiring voter approval to levy the tax; providing that approved taxes will sunset after 5 years and may be reauthorized by the voters.”

The full resolution adopted by the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission and information on the amendment prepared by Miami Dade College is included.

Supporting Documentation Included: Dr. Richardson's Comments, Taxation and Budget Reform Commission Resolution, and general information on Amendment 8.

Presenter: Dr. Willis N. Holcombe, Chancellor, Community Colleges