

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 18, 2003

SUBJECT: Presentation, Transition from the Florida Accounting and Information Resource System to individual University Accounting Systems

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

To brief the State Board of Education

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1011.4105, Florida Statutes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

After passage of the K-20 Education Code last fiscal year and beginning with fiscal year 2003-04, universities could begin transitioning from the state accounting system (FLAIR) to the university's accounting system. To accomplish the transition from FLAIR, the law requires that the university boards of trustees submit to the State Board of Education a plan developed in cooperation with the State Comptroller, now the Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Since July 2002, the State Comptroller's Office (now CFO) has been working with the universities to assist them in developing their individual plans. The University Presidents were notified via memorandum from Dr. Carl Blackwell on September 16, 2002, that these plans must be submitted to the Division of Colleges and Universities no later than March 3, 2003, to allow adequate time for review. Included with these plans is to be documentation from the CFO indicating the CFO's concurrence. Further, the State Board of Education must verify that the university is ready to implement the transition along with the CFO. Confirmation of this verification is to be submitted to the Executive Office of the Governor and Chairs of the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives. Transition is not to take place until after the State Board of Education has submitted the confirmation. Please refer to 1011.4105, F.S., for further details.

The Universities plan to accomplish the transition in two phases. They plan to transition off for their financials at the beginning of the fiscal year and for their payroll at the beginning of the calendar year. This is a massive undertaking, given all the details involved. There are 5 universities planning to transition off of FLAIR Financials on July 1, 2003, and off of FLAIR Payroll on January 1, 2004. (USF, UCF, FGCU, FAU and New College) The remaining universities will come off of FLAIR Financial on July 1, 2004 and come off of Payroll on January 1, 2005, with the exception of FIU which has stated it will come off Payroll on January 1, 2006. The CFO is in the process of reviewing the plans and providing comments.

Diana Flagg heads this project for the CFO's office. Mr. Gallagher has asked her to brief the Board Members as to the status and the resultant implications of this transition when each university is operating its own accounting system.

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