

May 8, 2002

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Members, Florida Board of Education

FROM: Jim Horne

SUBJECT: Community College Baccalaureate Degrees – Recommendation

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Per discussions of the Florida Board of Education at the April 16, 2002, meeting, I am pleased to present you with my recommendations related to the community college baccalaureate degree proposals of Chipola Junior College, Edison Community College, and Miami-Dade Community College.

As administrators of the law, the task of the Florida Board of Education and thus the Department of Education is to evaluate the proposals along the specific criteria established in statute. Other information related to cost, student population, and academic accountability adds context to the discussion but should not be used as a reason alone to approve or not approve a proposal. Final grant award amounts will be negotiated upon approval of any specific proposal.

**The Law**

The site-determined baccalaureate degree access legislation adopted by the 2001 Florida Legislature (s. 240.3836, F.S.) provides two avenues for a community college to deliver a limited number of specified baccalaureate degree programs (and thus to appropriated funds): (1) through “a formal agreement with the state university in its service areas for the community college to deliver specified baccalaureate degree programs”; and, (2) through a community college delivering specified baccalaureate degree programs in its district.

The law specifies that both avenues require three pieces of information that must be addressed in community college proposals:

1. Demand for the baccalaureate degree program is identified by the workforce development board, local businesses and industry, local chambers of commerce, and potential students.
2. Unmet need for graduates of the proposed degree program is substantiated.
3. The community college has the facilities and the academic resources to deliver the program.

The proposals must be submitted to the Council for Education Policy, Research, and Improvement for review and comment. The Florida Board of Education is authorized to

approve specific degree programs. Any additional baccalaureate degree programs must be approved by the Florida Board of Education.

Additionally, the law specifically states that “the primary mission of a community college, including a community college that offers baccalaureate degree programs, continues to be the provision of associate degrees that provide access to a university”. (s. 240.3836(3), F.S.)

## **The Program Proposals**

Using the three statutory criteria discussed above (detailed matrix checklists are attached for each program/college proposal), I make the following recommendations for your consideration:

### **Chipola Junior College (CJC)**

- BS, Business Administration
- BS, Nursing
- BA, Secondary Education

***Recommendation:** Approve funding to support a partnership agreement between Chipola Junior College and Florida State University, provided an acceptable plan for baccalaureate degree instructional services can be established and approved by the Secretary (pursuant to s. 240.3836 (2)(a), F.S.). Criteria and standards for an acceptable plan will be determined by the Secretary relative to accountability, cost, and administrative requirements. If the Secretary determines that an acceptable plan is not available within 30 days from date of Board approval, Chipola Junior College will be authorized by this action to award degrees in the proposed fields (pursuant to s. 240.3836 (2)(b), F.S.). Approval of either option shall remain in effect for five years subject to annual performance reviews.*

The three proposed programs have met the minimum statutory criteria for demand and facility/academic resources. Relative to unmet need, there is strong potential for a joint agreement for services with Florida State University (FSU) that will meet the needs of CJC. If such agreement cannot be reached, the proposals will be approved for a 5-year term; and if an agreement is reached, then funding should be provided to support implementation. To receive funding, an acceptable agreement must contain demonstration of the following considerations, including but not limited to: service to non-traditional student populations; service within local geographic boundaries; instruction during non-traditional hours; reasonable costs to the state and students; adherence to statutory “time-to-degree” program length, general education, and prerequisite requirements; fulfillment of foreign language requirements; adherence to administrative rule requirements (such as teacher preparation requirements); and, adherence to accreditation requirements.

Oversight and Accountability. The Secretary will monitor implementation of the joint agreement and/or the baccalaureate degree proposal through annual reporting by CJC (and FSU if applicable) relative to the status of the accreditation substantive change (where applicable), performance accountability (consistent with state university accountability requirements such as graduation rates, retention rates, success rates in upper division instruction, etc.), cost accounting, and economic impact. Demonstration of satisfactory progress towards meeting the demand for the program on an annual basis will be expected for continuation of the program approval, as determined by the Secretary. Extension of a 5-year initial approval will be contingent on evaluation, review, and further approval by the Florida Board of Education.

### **Edison Community College (ECC)**

- BS, Computer Technology
- BS, Public Administration

***Recommendation:*** Approve funding to support a partnership agreement between Edison Community College (ECC) and Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) provided an acceptable agreement for baccalaureate degree instructional services can be established and approved by the Secretary (pursuant to s. 240.3836(2)(a), F.S.). This option is in lieu of granting authority for Edison Community College to grant baccalaureate degrees. Criteria and standards for funding approval will be determined by the Secretary relative to accountability, cost, and administrative requirements.

The two proposed programs have met the minimum statutory criteria for demand, unmet need and facility/academic resources. I believe; however, that a true partnership between ECC and FGCU to develop Associate in Science to Bachelor of Science (AS to BS) degree programs could become a model for the rest of the state -- both boards and presidents have indicated a desire to partner to meet these needs, particularly involving the establishment of individualized, student-centered articulation agreements. The Secretary should monitor the establishment, implementation and evaluation of the joint agreement for services with FGCU that will meet the needs of ECC. Criteria for receipt of funds, as determined by the Secretary, will be contingent on demonstration of the following considerations within the agreement, including but not limited to: service to non-traditional student populations; service within local geographic boundaries; instruction during non-traditional hours; reasonable costs to the state and students; adherence to statutory “time-to-degree” program length, general education, and prerequisite requirements; fulfillment of foreign language requirements; adherence to administrative rule requirements; and, adherence to accreditation requirements.

**Oversight and Accountability.** The Secretary will monitor the implementation of the joint agreement through annual reporting by ECC and FGCU relative to the status of performance accountability (consistent with state university accountability requirements such as graduation rates, retention rates, success rates in upper division instruction, etc.), cost accounting, and economic impact. Demonstration of satisfactory progress towards meeting the need on an annual basis will be expected for continuation of funding (if available and provided), as determined by the Secretary and approved by the Florida Board of Education.

### **Miami-Dade Community College (MDCC)**

- BS/BA, Exceptional Student Education
- BS/BA, Secondary Education

***Recommendation:*** Approve program proposals for Miami-Dade Community College (MDCC) to grant baccalaureate degrees in Exceptional Student Education and Secondary Education (pursuant to s. 240.3836(2)(b), F.S.). Approval will be granted for a 5-year term with annual review and monitoring by the Secretary relative to accountability, cost, and administrative requirements.

The two proposed programs have met the minimum statutory criteria for demand, unmet need, and facility/academic resources (with understanding of facility use during non-peak hours). To receive support funding, MDCC must demonstrate the following considerations as the programs are developed and implemented, including but not limited to: innovative facilities utilization and scheduling techniques; adherence to statutory “time-to-degree” program length, general education, and prerequisite requirements;

fulfillment of foreign language requirements; adherence to administrative rule requirements (such as teacher preparation requirements); and, adherence to accreditation requirements.

Oversight and Accountability. The Secretary will monitor implementation of the baccalaureate degree proposal through annual reporting by MDCC relative to the status of the accreditation substantive change, performance accountability (consistent with state university accountability requirements such as graduation rates, retention rates, success rates in upper division instruction, etc.), cost accounting, and economic impact. Demonstration of satisfactory progress towards meeting the need for teachers on an annual basis will be expected for continuation of the program approval, as determined by the Secretary. Extension of a 5-year initial approval will be contingent on evaluation, review, and further approval by the Florida Board of Education.

- BS, Early Childhood Education
- BS/BA, Elementary Education

***Recommendation:** Approval for Miami-Dade Community College (MDCC) to grant baccalaureate degrees in Elementary Education should be reconsidered at a future date, under a new proposal, when further evidence of unmet need can be established. MDCC should continue to partner with state and independent college and university colleagues to bridge associate and baccalaureate degree instruction.*

The proposed programs in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education have met the minimum statutory criteria for demand and facility/academic resources (with understanding of facility use during non-peak hours). I do not feel, however, the same burden of proof has been established relative to unmet need for the two programs. Elementary Education is not identified as a critical shortage area for the State of Florida or Miami-Dade School District. Primary Education, which is the certification area for which graduates of the Early Childhood Education program are prepared, is scheduled to be restructured beginning July 1, 2002. The Elementary Education (grades 1-6) and Primary Education (grades K-3) certification areas will be collapsed into one new, Elementary Education certification area (grades K-6) – Primary Education certification will be discontinued. Additionally, there appears to be much interest and success of partnerships with Florida International University, Barry University, and other state and independent college and university partners to meet student and program need in these areas for the community. Rather than exacerbating MDCC's facility needs through establishment of yet more baccalaureate degrees that could potentially adversely impact the ability of MDCC to partner with a college or university to offer the programs, I feel Miami's students would benefit from the availability of continued partnership options. Should the economic landscape change in the future, MDCC may wish to re-evaluate and resubmit a proposal to the Florida Board for reconsideration of authority to grant an Elementary Education baccalaureate degree.

### **Proposal/Agreement Funding**

With regard to all recommendations for funding to support program proposal and/or agreement implementation, I recommend the Florida Board of Education grant authority to the Secretary to determine start-up and operational cost figures per program area and/or arrangement that are "reasonable, realistic, and responsible". Appropriate funding amounts will be determined by the Secretary within 30 days of Florida Board action on the proposals

JH/jw

Attachments