

MINUTES
FLORIDA BOARD OF EDUCATION
CONFERENCE CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA
JANUARY 18, 2002

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the Florida Board of Education in the Conference Center, University of West Florida, Pensacola, Florida, at 8:10 a.m., January 18, 2002, with the following members present: Linda J. Eads, T. Willard Fair, Charles P. García, Julia L. Johnson, William Proctor, and Carolyn K. Roberts.

Staff present were: Jim Horne, Secretary; John Winn, Assistant Secretary; Bob Ward, Deputy Assistant Secretary; Georgia McKeown, Chief of Staff; Lauren Cain, Director, Communications; Larry Wood, Director, Budgets; Sara Struhs; Mary-Anne Bestebreurtje; Laura Butler; and Shaunna Speer.

1. Greetings and Opening Remarks

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Dr. Morris Marx, President, University of West Florida, and Mr. Collier Merrill, Chairman, UWF Board of Trustees, welcomed the members of the Florida Board of Education. Dr. Marx reported to the Board on the benefit to the University of West Florida of a Board of Trustees focused on the needs of the University of West Florida and the needs of this part of the State.

2. Member Questions/Observations

Mr. Fair thanked Commissioner Crist and Secretary Horne for attending the Kick-Off of the "Campaign for Proficiency" Read and Rise Project of The Urban League of Greater Miami, Inc., and emphasizing the importance of education to all students.

3. Chairman's Report

Mr. Handy reported on his meetings with Legislators and with legislative staff. He said he had made a presentation on the School Code revisions to the House Committee on Lifelong Learning. He thanked the Board members for their participation and thoughtful discussion of the Strategic Plan.

4. Secretary's Report

Secretary Horne advised the Board that Dr. William Maloy, the recipient of the Board's special recognition this month, was unable to be present. He said Dr. Maloy had served education in Florida in many capacities over the past 50 years, as a classroom teacher, member of the Florida Board of Regents, Education Adviser to Governors Kirk and Askew, and Superintendent of Schools for Escambia County. He

had recently been recognized for his lifetime achievements by induction into the Florida Educator's Hall of Fame. He said that Dr. Maloy was an advocate for the new seamless system of education in Florida.

Mr. Horne said he had been the Commencement Speaker at FSU in December; he had joined Governor Bush for the signing of the new Education Flexibility Act. He had been in Washington with Secretary Paige to discuss the new Federal legislation, the "No Child Left Behind" Act. He said that with the Bill's emphasis on reading, he would be assembling a team of experts within the Department to assist him. He reported that reorganization of the Department was proceeding. He advised that the Chancellor searches were underway and that he was developing the position descriptions for the other new positions on his leadership team.

Mr. Fair moved that the Board approve the Secretary's Report. Mrs. Roberts seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred.

5. Approval of Minutes of Meetings held December 7, December 14, and December 27, 2001

Dr. Eads asked that the Minutes of the meeting held December 14, 2001, be corrected to reflect that she had participated in a teacher evaluation program, PACES, a new student-focused teacher evaluation system. Mr. Fair said he was not at the meeting held December 14, 2001; the Minutes showed him present.

Mrs. Roberts moved that the Board approve the Minutes of the meetings held December 7, 2001, and December 27, 2001, as presented, and the Minutes of the meeting held December 14, 2001, as corrected. Dr. Eads seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred.

6. Update on CEPRI

Secretary Horne said that CEPRI had adopted and transmitted to the Board three reports required by proviso in the Appropriations Act. The Council had also begun its discussions of baccalaureate degree proposals submitted by three community colleges. He said he had asked Dr. Blackwell and Mr. Armstrong to bring recommendations regarding the criteria to be used in the review of these requests to this Board before further action was taken on these requests.

7. Report on Governor's Budget Recommendations

Secretary Horne presented a summary of the Governor's 2002-03 K-20 Education Budget Recommendations. He reviewed the funding increases to education over the past four years, the funding sources, and the allocation of funds. He described some of the budget highlights, including the \$726.4 million increase recommended in total FEFP funds. He described the funds recommended for the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Initiatives, and the funds for initiatives to assist low performing students.

The budget included a recommendation for a 5 percent tuition increase for all university students and the authority for additional tuition increases the university boards of trustees could charge graduate and out-of-state students, under criteria set by the Florida Board. The budget included strong support for the further devolution of authority to the university trustees.

Mr. García thanked Secretary Horne for this presentation. He said press reports had not been favorable, and he was pleased to see that there were increases being recommended in all areas.

8. Discussion of Strategic Planning

Mr. Handy said the Board had participated in a full day workshop the previous day and had identified eight top strategic imperatives for the Board to address its four statutory goals, as prescribed by the Legislature. Dr. Proctor said the Board could identify at least one strategic imperative within each one of the goals by combining two of the imperatives and building in the emphasis on low-income and minority students. He moved that the Board adopt the top eight imperatives, combining #2 and #3, identifying an emphasis on low-income and minority students. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion.

Mr. García suggested a slight modification in the wording, that it not “emphasize” preparation. He suggested that the imperative incorporate increasing the rate of learning and completion at all levels, especially high school, and increasing the percentage of K-12 students moving to postsecondary education, especially low-income and minority students. Dr. Eads inquired about the graduation rates for community college and university students as well. Mr. Handy agreed and asked staff to redraft the combined imperative.

There were no further comments, and members of the Board concurred unanimously.

9. Update on New School Grading Rule, 6A-1.09981

Commissioner Crist said he was pleased to explain the new School Grading Rule to the Board. He said this would assist the schools in measuring whether each student achieved a year’s worth of knowledge in a year’s time. Ms. Betty Coxe, Deputy Commissioner, said that as the Department has promoted the effort to grade schools, it has seen steady growth in student achievement. The proposed rule has two major strengths, an intense focus on student reading and the means to demonstrate performance gains. The highlight is on schools that advance the child’s progress and advance reading skills on grade level. Attention is given to the lowest performing students. Teaching is tailored to the needs of students.

Dr. Gerry Richardson explained the rule in detail. The rule contains measures with high standards, and tracks student annual learning gains. He explained that there

were higher standards in all subject areas for all schools. The Department was also assessing the progress of the lowest 25 percent of readers in any school to look at the percentage of students making learning gains. In summary, high performance standards are set for students in every category; emphasis is on learning gains in reading and on the lowest performing students.

Mr. García said it was important that the same emphasis be placed on schools, whether 95 percent or 5 percent of their graduates were seeking postsecondary education. Dr. Eads thanked Dr. Richardson and inquired how special needs children were tested. Dr. Richardson responded that there was an expectation that all students would be tested; exceptions were determined on an individual basis. He said that the reporting format provided a complete array of assessment results across all grade levels and applicable to all types of schools. Dr. Proctor commented that there was no testing program connected to standards after the 10th grade.

Mr. Fair said this was the most significant public policy issue since the 1954 Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education. He said the guarantees in the rule were critical as they forced everyone in the process to be accountable. Truly, no child would be left behind. Further, Mr. García noted that a key component of the new federal legislation was the safety of schoolchildren.

Secretary Horne remarked that this rule was originally contemplated as a part of the Bush-Brogan "A+" Plan. It is critical to measure learning gains and to assure effective teaching, curriculum and schools, and to hold individuals accountable. He said they had the tools to reform education; this rule provides the backbone to that effort.

Ms. Johnson said the rule provisions seemed simple, but entailed complexities in identifying the lowest student performers. She added that the emphasis on student preparation for the next grade was a critical component. Mr. García thanked Dr. Richardson for this information and asked for further information about the rule and its provisions. Dr. Proctor inquired about the development of the scaled scores to be used. Dr. Richardson said teachers would be looking at each student's individual gains.

10. Discussion of Accountability Workgroup

Secretary Horne said he was appointing an Accountability Workgroup to develop a K-20 accountability system that would provide understandable and credible information on student performance, and guidance and direction on needed improvements. This accountability system would be a counterbalance to increased local control. This work was not starting from scratch, as there were already measures in place for K-12. There were areas where further standards were needed. He said several subgroups would be formed; representation on these groups would be broad-based. He provided an overview of the group's objectives, process and composition. Dr. Eads suggested that a representative of the statewide PTA be included.

Mr. Winn said the focus would be on postsecondary measures; the emphasis would be on the four goal areas identified in statute for this Board. The product was to develop a learner-based accountability system, incorporating performance measures for all delivery systems in all four goal areas. Accountability standards for higher education need to be correlated with accountability standards in place for K-12. The report was expected to be completed by June 30, 2002.

11. Discussion of Higher Education Funding Workgroup

Secretary Horne said the further devolution of authority and financing of higher education were dependent on appropriate accountability measures. The scope of work for this Higher Education Funding Workgroup was greater than issues of tuition-setting and financial aid. Questions included the financing of higher education, the costs, who pays, State and Federal financial aid policies, and access to higher education. He said the members had not yet been selected, but they would be broadly representative. Mr. García recommended that the membership reflect the interests of the whole state.

12. Update on Legislative Session

Mr. Bob Ward reported that staff members were following approximately 187 bills. He said the focus during the first weeks of Session was on committee meetings. He distributed a one-page summary describing the transition of the universities to institutional independence and the completion of the new governance structure, giving the universities operational independence as the local employer and the local fiscal agent. Dr. Proctor inquired about the distinction vis-à-vis the status of community colleges. Mr. Ward said community colleges were political subdivisions with specific geographic boundaries, they are lump-sum funded and do not have bonding authority.

Mr. Ward commented that earlier in the week, all the lobbyists from the public schools, the community colleges and the universities met to discuss the rewrite of the School Code. Such a joint meeting had never happened before. Mr. Fair commented that cooperation had replaced competition. He inquired about the legislative priorities for the community colleges. Mr. Ward responded that they sought a new funding model, financial aid, and clarification of the matching grants.

In addition, Mr. Ward presented an overview of the new Federal legislation, H.R. 1, known as the "No Child Left Behind" Act. He said this legislation seemed to be written with Florida in mind; there would be a Florida team involved in the negotiated rulemaking implementing the law. He said Florida expected to receive approximately \$295 million more in Federal education funds over the previous year. The bill was over 1200 pages; there is a website about the bill and its provisions. Mr. García asked that staff send him a copy of the bill and the bill summary.

13. Delivery System Action Items

Ms. Johnson moved that the Board approve the following items, as presented. Dr. Eads seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred. Mr. Handy noted that this Board was acting to approve the first new Ph.D. program under the criteria approved by the Board at its meeting held in Ocala, in November 2001.

A. Implementation Authorization for a Ph.D., Modeling and Simulation, UCF

Dr. LeMon explained that the proposed Ph.D. program had been included in the Strategic Plan previously adopted by the Board of Regents. He explained that the program met, with strength, this Board's criteria for implementing a new doctoral program. The new interdisciplinary program was aligned with UCF's mission. There was a critical mass of faculty, and the infrastructure of library holdings and research facilities were in place. There is the potential for high demand for this program; there is no similar program in Florida.

Dr. John Hitt, President, UCF, thanked Mr. Handy for the opportunity to present this program for approval. He said this was one of the strongest program requests he had made in his 10 years as President. He said this was an exciting academic discipline; Central Florida could reap as many as 25,000 new jobs related to this emerging field. In addition, the military might generate over \$1 billion in research and development contracts in the area.

Dr. Proctor inquired about similar programs in the United States. There is a similar program at Old Dominion University in Virginia; there are related tracks within some engineering programs. To fund the program, the University intended to reallocate existing funds, and money would be included within the base budget for the next year. He also inquired about the last time a program review resulted in the closure of a Ph.D. program. Mr. Handy remarked as the university mission statements were better defined, this Board might look at closing some programs.

Mrs. Roberts moved that the Board authorize implementation of the Ph.D. in Modeling and Simulation (CIP 30.0601), at the University of Central Florida, as presented. Dr. Proctor seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred.

B. State University System Building Designations

The Board approved the requests to name buildings at state universities, as presented in the Agenda, with one amendment. The FAMU Board of Trustees requested that the name of the Allied Health

Building be the Jacqueline B. Beck – Margaret W. Lewis Allied Health Building.

C. Tenure Nominations as a Condition of Employment, FAMU

The Board approved the award of tenure as a condition of employment to the nominees from FAMU, as presented.

D. Report on Increase in Baccalaureate Programs at University Branch Campuses, Required by 2000-01 Appropriations Bill Proviso Language

The Board accepted the staff report summarizing the increase in complete baccalaureate programs for counties specified in budget proviso language, as presented.

E. Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$30,000,000 Certificates of Participation, Series 2002, to Refinance and Finance Phases I-IV, Student Residences, FGCU

The Board approved the financing plan and adopted the resolution authorizing the issuance of fixed or variable rate, tax-exempt certificates of participation by the Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$30 million provided that the housing system debt service coverage ratio is not less than 1.20. The Board further authorized the Chancellor of the Division of Colleges and Universities to execute the necessary contractual documents related to the financing and construction of the project. The approval and authorization are granted provided that the existing campus development agreement with Lee County is amended to include the proposed housing facilities and after execution of the amendment, sufficient time remains to construct the proposed project for Fall 2003 occupancy, as presented.

Mr. García filed with the Corporate Secretary a Memorandum of Voting Conflict for State Officers, Form 8A, as to this item, for inclusion in the official records of the Board.

F. Site Designation Request, Hillsborough Community College South Center

The Board approved the request of a new South Center for Hillsborough Community College, as presented.

G. Approval of Academic Improvement Trust Fund Use

The Board approved the requests from Florida Keys Community College, Hillsborough Community College, Pensacola Junior College, and

Polk Community College to use funds from the Academic Improvement Trust Fund, as presented.

14. Concluding Remarks

Mr. Handy said the next Board meeting would be held at Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, on Tuesday, February 26, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. He distributed proposed meeting dates for the remainder of the year and asked the Members to review the dates for possible calendar conflicts.

Mr. García thanked Chairman Handy for his forthright response to Senator Graham. He invited the Senator to join this Board in these important efforts for education in a constructive way.

15. Adjournment

Having no further business, Chairman Handy adjourned the regular meeting of the Florida Board of Education at 11:50 a.m., January 18, 2002.

F. Philip Handy,
Chairman

Mary-Anne Bestebreurtje,
Corporate Secretary