

## **School Code Rewrite Workgroup Recommendations related to the State Universities**

**Goal: To further devolve institutional governing authority to the university boards of trustees to fully implement the education governance reorganization and to maximize local control and flexibility, while maintaining appropriate level of state oversight and accountability. The following recommendations are made to advance the five guiding principles of creating seamlessness, reducing statutory prescriptiveness, centering on the responsibility to serve our students, creating a school code that is user-friendly, and ensuring the appropriate statutory authority to effectively operate.**

### University Governance Structure

- Remove the universities from state agency status
  - Align state appropriations process with that of the community colleges so that universities may enjoy the same level of fiscal flexibility; allow for the deposit of funds outside the State Treasury and the ability to earn interest on fund balances; eliminate restrictions on the ability to carry forward unexpended funds; authorize universities to acquire and maintain their own fully integrated financial management system.
  - Establish university boards of trustees as the employer of all university personnel with appropriate authority to establish personnel programs and to collectively bargain at the local level; build a recognition award system and personnel exchange program without state limits; allow for continued participation in the state health and retirement systems; allow for potential participation with community colleges and school boards in other benefit programs.

### Devolution of Governance Authority to University Boards of Trustees

- Provide university boards with flexibility in setting tuition and fees, and to provide for tuition and fee waivers
- Devolve authority to the university boards of trustees to:
  - establish university procurement programs and set policies for the purchase, sale, lease, and license of goods, materials, equipment and services required by the university; authorize the university boards to set policies for the provision of goods, materials and services through sale, lease, license or any other manner
  - borrow funds and incur debt, including the approval and issuance of revenue bonds for university-specific projects utilizing non-appropriated revenues such as student fees, housing, food service, bookstore or other auxiliary revenues
  - exercise the right of eminent domain according to the processes established for community colleges and contingent upon approval of the State Board of Administration.

- secure insurance, create self-insurance programs subject to certain conditions, and adopt policies and procedures related to risk management
- establish and regulate faculty practice plans
- control data and technology, including information and communications systems and networks
- provide for educational radio and television facilities
- enter consortia arrangements with community college district boards, school boards and others for the provision of services and benefits to take advantage of cost effective opportunities
- authorize university police to patrol and protect property and facilities owned or controlled by a university direct-support organization or any other university-affiliated organization
- use parking infraction revenues to meet the unique needs of the university
- certify and authorize the operations of direct-support organizations within statutory requirements
- authorize the naming of a building, school, college or center at the university
- prepare and adopt a campus master plan to be approved by the State Board of Education; to negotiate and enter into campus development agreements with the host local government
- provide for the delegation of authority from the university boards to the university president or his or her designee as appropriate
- provide student handbook information through a variety of means
- provide an updated process for student governments to suspend or remove elected student government officials

**School Code Rewrite Issues for Consideration & Resolution by the Florida Board of Education:**

- The role of the FBOE in the presidential search and evaluation processes
- Tuition, fees and fee caps