

FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
School Code Rewrite Committee Actions

Proposed Action to Devolve Authority
Subject to Approval by the Florida Board of Education

GOAL: Maximize local decision-making control and flexibility, while maintaining appropriate level of state oversight, by removing state-level approval authority and instead rely on broad policy guidelines and accountability (and associated rewards and penalties) for performance outcomes and outputs.

Recommendations:

FBOE devolve decision-making authority, without continued state-level oversight but within broad policy guidelines, to maximize the authority of district boards of trustees to:

- Establish, control and terminate all degrees and programs
- Administer personnel travel, salary, benefits, and administrative cost decisions
- Control college operating budgets
- Advise student enrollment in credit courses concurrent with college preparatory classes
- Arrest or issue parking citations, when involving sworn officers
- Use parking infraction revenues to meet the unique needs of the college
- Build a recognition award system and personnel exchange program without state limits
- Expand optional retirement program contracts to state universities and public schools
- Participate in state deferred compensation programs
- Provide student handbook information through a variety of means
- Participate in the state's optional retirement plan through the college optional retirement plan
- Maintain custody and content rules related to the records of college personnel
- Establish contracts with administrative and instructional staff
- Make provision for flexibility on faculty teaching load
- Use funds from the Academic Improvement Trust Fund at the discretion of the college
- Use community college police to patrol and secure DSO property
- Establish a presidential search committee around the needs of the community and college
- Delegate district board responsibilities to the president, and further delegate responsibilities from the president to college employees

FBOE resolve “Bumped Up” decision points, including:

- Mission of Community Colleges. Section 229.0061(2)(b)9., F.S., requires the FBOE to “Recommend to the Legislature the missions of the public colleges and universities and community colleges.” The School Code Rewrite Committee recommends adding provision of “providing access to baccalaureate degrees through partnerships with public and private universities or through granting a limited number of baccalaureate degrees as authorized in law (pursuant to ss. 240.3836 and 240.9999)” to the mission of community colleges.
- Presidential Appointment. Section 240.319(4), F.S., authorizes the district board of trustees to select and appoint the president without state involvement. The School Code Rewrite Committee recommends retaining that authority as it currently exists.
- Presidential Evaluation. Through Type II transfer, the FBOE adopted the SBCC requirement to review evaluations of presidents to check for compliance that certain functions were measured (i.e., performance accountability and equity accountability) (s. 240.311(3)(f), F.S.). The School Code Rewrite Committee recommends eliminating that requirement, and instead recommends

that broad guidelines be adopted, based on authorizing legislation, for district boards to follow in the evaluation of presidents. The Committee also recommends that accountability for outcomes be maintained at district level (with appropriate rewards and penalties) without further state level involvement.

- Funding, Tuition and Fee Policy.
 - *Funding Formula.* The School Code Rewrite Committee recommends restructuring the outdated statutory community college funding formula to codify the jointly developed and unanimously approved (by the Division and Community College Council of Presidents) distributive funding formula for community colleges.
 - *Matriculation & Tuition.* The Committee recommends the FBOE retain authority to recommend to the Legislature a standard matriculation and tuition fee amount, with current district board discretion to vary from the standard amount by 15% above or 10% below at the local level.
 - *Required Local Fees.* The School Code Rewrite Committee recommends restructuring statutory fee authority to provide discretionary fee flexibility for required local fees (such as financial aid fees, capital improvement fees, and student & activity fees) within a consolidated capped amount.

Continue evaluation and devolution as appropriate:

- Provide statutory authority for the FBOE to delegate administrative functions of the Board to the Secretary, as appropriate.
- Align, as much as possible and where appropriate, functions of the boards and presidents of both community colleges and universities.
- Protect the integrity of statutes serving as the foundation of successful articulation mechanisms, such as statewide course numbering system, articulation agreements, etc.
- Find situations to expand appropriate public/private partnerships, streamline and strengthen accountability for performance outputs and outcomes rather than state involvement and oversight, and reduce prescriptiveness to allow local flexibility to meet unique community and student needs.
- Retain a minimal number of post-SBCC functions at the state (FBOE or Secretary) level until further consideration of consequences of devolution can be evaluated (such as review of financial audits, approval of out-of-district instructional requests, etc.)