

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Update**

November 16, 2016

SUBJECT: Florida College System – President Beard on behalf of the Council of Presidents

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

N/A

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Florida College System (FCS) Council of Presidents (COP) Steering Committee collaborated on Substantive Legislative Issues for the 2017 Legislative session. These priorities focus on the *Governor's 2015 challenge for a 100% Completion* rate and the *2016 Finish in 4 and Save More* initiatives, while supporting Florida's increasing workforce and economic development needs in the most effective manner.

Moreover, the components of the newly revised FCS Funding Formula will allow for a more equitable distribution of state funds to meet student and program priorities, and deliver outcomes expected by statewide and community stakeholders.

2017 Council of Presidents Legislative Priorities and Funding Request

The COP supports the Department of Education Legislative Budget Request for the 2017-18 Florida College System Program Fund appropriation. In addition, the COP requests new funding to be used by a college as needed, as described below:

- \$40 million performance funding
- + \$60 million funding through the formula
- **\$100 million new funding**

Justification:

- **Enhance 2 + 2 articulation** by managing a seamless process of successfully transitioning students through a four- year completion track, AND
- **Build student awareness of 2+2 deadlines and degree programs** to support students' educational/career goals and entry into the workforce, through further collaboration with State University System (SUS) staff.
- **Increase advising and academic support** to strengthen overall student retention and ensure a greater percentage of students utilizing 2+2 articulation. Key to that

effort is improving the ratio of advisors and tutors to students, which is critical to student completion success.

- In October 2016 an aggregate report of FCS institutions revealed that the average ratio between students and advisors is 730:1. *Optimally, the ratio should be 400:1.* Twelve (12) of the FCS institutions sampled have counselors on staff which brings the average ratio of students and advisors + counselors to 666:1.
 - In October 2016, an aggregate report of FCS institutions also revealed that on average FCS employed only seven (7) full-time “face-to-face” academic tutors each, (ranging from 31 to 0) and 51 part-time face-to-face” tutors each, (ranging from 350 to 5). In addition, 23 colleges reported contracting with outside vendors for online virtual tutoring hours (approximate average of 2,600 hours annually) in an attempt to supplement face-to-face academic support.
- **Implement new technology** to track student progress by providing dashboards to advisors to certify that students finish in four years and earn the proper prerequisites for transfer into a State University.
 - **Increase Workforce Programs** to meet current and emerging labor market demands for local and regional business and industry, providing a pipeline to high wage jobs.
 - **Fund FSC STEM programs** nonexistent at either FSC or SUS institutions. Emphasize STEM fields such as bio and eco technology, cyber security and the broad range of health-care fields.
 - **Offset program costs for career and technical programs** which cost more to operate than general education courses. By expanding workforce programs, state wide implementation and facilitation will increase costs to colleges.
 - **Increase advisors** overseeing students in workforce programs to assist with enrollment and completion in certificate and degree programs
 - The FSU Center for Economic Forecasting and Analysis is developing an FCS programs/workforce gap analysis to be completed by January 2017. This data will assist colleges to direct students toward high-need workforce programs, and align degrees and certificates to employer job demand.
 - **Improve campus safety and security** for an all-encompassing approach to campus safety and prevention.
 - **Empower students, faculty and staff** with the technology, equipment, training, personnel, program implementation and defensive services to mitigate threats, prepare for and handle emergencies such as fire, natural disasters or violence.

- **Invest funding needed to offset increasing operating expenses.** The FCS has provided accessible and affordable education to over 800,000 students annually with zero to minimal tuition changes for the past five years.
 - **Operating costs are increasing** statewide for health insurance, utility rates and materials. Institutions are providing the same great quality services while increasing our efforts in student retention, completion and workforce development.

- **Costs of unfunded student waivers** require an offset the costs of numerous fee waivers granted annually to various student groups.

- **Support the Department of Education’s PECO Request for \$100 million.** The DOE’s prioritization process ranks PECO projects with a focus on STEM projects and high wage programs in the FCS.
 - **System-wide deferred maintenance of facilities** is critical for campuses impacted by aging facilities used by more than 800,000 FCS students annually.
 - **Degradation of facilities** creates life-to-safety hazards and failing infrastructure impacting the health of students, faculty and staff.
 - **Complete existing projects** and recently approved projects.

Supporting Documentation Included: N/A

Facilitator/Presenter: Dr Timothy Beard, President, Pasco-Hernando State College