

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Update

April 10, 2014

SUBJECT: Florida College System – President Jim Henningsen, 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 Council of Presidents has identified several items that will be monitored throughout the 2014 legislative session.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

The FCS has embraced this concept in the past and for the future. Following the approval of performance measures by the State Board of Education a few months ago, we have continued to work with the Chancellor's office to ensure the measures are suitable for our institutions. We had a committee review the measures and suggest any changes needed and have vetted their work with the Division of Florida Colleges, Legislative staff, and the Governor's office staff. Presidents approved the revised measures in February as a one-year pilot so they can revise the measures if needed in the future. The initial House budget does not contain funding for performance. The Senate budget does. We will work closely with the House and Senate as they prepare for budget conference to work out their differences.

DREAM ACT / RESIDENCY ISSUES:

Speaker Weatherford has recently spoken out in the press about his support for addressing the residency issues that face some of our students. The presidents have been supportive of this issue in years past, and reaffirmed their support of the issue at the February Council of Presidents meeting. HB 851 passed the House floor in Week 3 of the legislative session. We are working in the Senate to see if the bill will pass there. SB 1400 cleared the Education committee on a very close vote.

Additionally, HB 7015 covering many topics related to military members and their families. Includes the Dollars for Duty (FLNG) program and waiver of out-of-state portion of tuition and fees. The bill is now enrolled and will go to the Governor for signature.

TECHNICAL COLLEGES:

COP members were recently briefed on the career and technical center bill, which contains a provision for career and technical centers to become technical colleges while remaining accredited by the Council of Occupational Education (COE). The bill also authorizes technical colleges to offer Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degrees and any college

credit certificate program. They would have to go before the State Board of Education to seek approval for AAS degrees, but not the certificate programs. General education courses would be allowed, but only the ones for their approved AAS degrees. The bill would also require technical centers to ensure the faculty credentials for the general education courses met the same standards as Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation requirements to ensure seamless transfer to the Florida College System.

TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY:

Bills are sponsored by Senator Flores and Representative Porter. The colleges have long sought to help improve affordability for students and are working with the sponsors and Governor's office on these important bills. There were some initial concerns over some of the procedures and timelines required in the bill but the colleges and universities are working closely with the Governor's office to find workable solutions that improve textbook affordability for students.

COMMISSIONER PUTNAM PECO PROPOSAL:

The COP endorsed a plan by Agriculture Commissioner Putnam to restructure the funding for PECO. The plan is now the subject of Senate Bill 1076 by Sen. Flores. SB 1076 is cleared its first committee on March 11 with amendments affecting the rates charged for the consumption of the utility.

COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL:

A proposed Senate bill by Education Chairman John Legg would require colleges to establish collegiate high school programs as options for public school students in grade 12 to earn industry certifications and complete the first year of college. The bill would require FCS institutions to execute a contract with each school district to establish the collegiate high school programs in public schools. The bill would allow FTE funding to exceed the 1.0 cap and would limit funding to FCS institutions from the FEFP and the CCPF if the institution did not establish a collegiate high school program. The colleges have been working hard on this bill with Chair Legg, to express our support for the concept of expansion of acceleration, but also to address the penalty for colleges in this bill. We are hearing the House will propose a similar concept in legislation soon.

2014-15 BUDGET:

The Council of Presidents was pleased that Governor Scott recognized our system with his budget recommendations for \$40 million in new funds. We are pleased that the House budget contains \$69 million in new funding to support the students we serve. The House proposal prioritizes funding for the system as a whole and also addresses compression for the lowest funded colleges. The Senate budget contains \$25 million in new funding for the FCS with a priority on performance funding. We will be working with both chambers as they approach budget conference in a few weeks to provide the highest level of support for the nearly 1 million students we serve so that we can maintain affordable and high quality access to higher education.

Supporting Documentation Included: N/A

Facilitator/Presenter: Dr. Jim Henningsen, President, College of Central Florida