

Committee on Educational Policy & Strategy Minutes
University of Florida Board of Trustees
August 18, 2006
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
239 Tigert Hall
University of Florida

Committee Members Present: Carlos Alfonso, Chair, (telephone); Cynthia O’Connell (telephone); John Boyles; and Danaya Wright

Others Present: Janie Fouke, Patricia Telles-Irvin, and Zina Evans

Committee Chair Carlos Alfonso called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He opened calling for discussion of the May 25, 2006 and June 15, 2006 minutes.

Tenure Upon Hire:

Trustee Alfonso requested Dr. Fouke comment on the tenure upon hire cases: Linda Bartoshuk, Geoffrey Dahl, John Hayes, Glen Hoffsis, John Kirkpatrick, Christopher Silver, and Ghatu Subhash. Trustee Wright stated all appear to be sound candidates, however; she requested the record reflect all cases were male, at the department chair or dean level with the exception of Dr. Subhash. who was not hired in at the higher rank and is the only minority.

Proposed University of Florida Regulations:

The committee discussed the UF Regulation on Tuition Cost (6C1-3.0375). Trustee Boyles requested clarification of the changes being made to the regulation at the September meeting.

National Merit (NM) Guidelines:

The committee held an extensive discussion of the NM guidelines. Trustee Wright cited information from *The Chronicle on Higher Education* on the total number of NMs enrolled at various institutions and the total number of NMs invested by each institution:

Harvard – 287 total, no institutional investment

Univ of Texas Austin – 262 total, 202 incentivized by the institution

Yale – 232 total, no institutional investment

UF – 230 total, 188 incentivized by the institution

Univ of Wisconsin Madison – 29 total, 5 incentivized by the institution

Univ of North Carolina Chapel Hill – 138 total, 107 incentivized by the institution

Univ of Virginia – 36 total, no institutional investment

Georgetown – 42 total, no institutional investment

The Committee continued discussion comparing the difference between a National Merit Scholar vs. a National Merit Finalist, as well as an in-depth discussion of the NM scholar financial package awarded. The current average is \$1,000-\$2,000 nationally. UF’s financial commitment is \$9,000 for in-state and \$92,000 for out-of-state plus tuition waivers. Provost Fouke stated the university is proposing a \$1,000 per year award, in addition to an

opportunity for a one-time \$1,000 research stipend. There was discussion of the minimum award of \$500 recommended by the National Merit Corporation. Approximately 43% of the institutions pay less than \$1,000 a year. Of UF's NMs, 2/3 are in-state with 1/3 being out-of-state students. The committee discussed several ideas of how UF could stay competitive and offer potential non-monetary incentives.

Trustee Alfonso requested the committee receive information at the September meeting of how UF ranks in just scholars.

Discussion Items:

Dr. Telles-Irvin asked that "Sorority and Fraternity Affairs Update" be added to the September meeting discussion items.

Student Government Tuition Survey:

Trustee Boyles stated Student Government was working on the Tuition Survey. He is making some revisions and will have a draft ready for the September meeting.

Admissions Update:

Dr. Fouke stated that an in depth admissions report will be given at the September meeting once drop/add is complete.

Dr. Zina Evans, Assistant Provost and Director of Admissions, provided a brief update:

Admitted Class (enrolled class data is not available for a few more weeks):

- Mid 50% GPA increased over last year from a range of 3.8-4.3 to 3.9-4.4
- ACT increased from a range of 25-30 to 26-31

Number of Applications by ethnicity:

- African American increased by 14%
- Hispanic increased by 7%
- Asian decreased by 6%
- Indian increased by 21%
- Not represented increased by 21%

In the number admitted, African Americans and Indian both increased, with Asian and Hispanic both decreasing. The total percentage remained the same – 14.37% of class is Hispanic

Dr. Fouke requested input on ways to convey the message that UF has 23,000 applicants for 6,600 spaces.

Florida Opportunity Scholars (FOS) Update:

Trustee O'Connell inquired if the increase in African American applicants was due to the FOS. Dr. Fouke stated that because the scholarship became available later in the academic year, it was probably not a contributing factor to the increase. Dr. Evans stated FOS had an impact on the yield, but not the applicant pool. Trustee Alfonso stated that the Governor is very proud of this scholarship.

Alternative Admissions Strategy

The committee briefly discussed alternative admission strategies such as those used by UT, Austin and Berkeley. Dr. Telles-Irvin also suggested additional services such as housing, counseling, etc. be considered when looking at alternative models.

Trustee Wright asked, is the goal of looking at alternative models to increase enrollment? Trustee Alfonso replied, the goal is to increase UF's ability to do everything feasible to accommodate as many students as possible, and to exhaust all avenues and methods.

Trustees Alfonso requested that Dr. Evans be placed on the December meeting agenda to discuss the various models.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.