



The Foundation for The Gator Nation

BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION

Number: R07-36

Subject: Resolution in Support of Provisions of the Pappas Report

Date: March 30, 2007

WHEREAS, the Florida Board of Governors commissioned the report, “Proposing a Blueprint for Higher Education in Florida: Outlining the Way to a Long-term Master Plan for Higher Education in Florida” by the Pappas Consulting Group in order to help the State University System meet the future needs of the State of Florida;

WHEREAS, the Pappas Report provides observations about the State University System, makes recommendations for improvements and describes proposed actions;

WHEREAS, one of the problems identified by the Pappas Report is major resource constraints;

WHEREAS, the report notes that Florida is a very low tuition state and that Bright Futures and the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program are well intentioned, innovative programs that unfortunately pose long-term funding challenges;

WHEREAS, the report also notes that the state's funding formula rewards quantity over quality;

WHEREAS, on the issue of funding, the report recommends that the state develop a tuition strategy that increases institutional flexibility, that a Blue Ribbon Commission redesign Bright Futures and Florida Prepaid programs to insure their long-term solvency and that the Board of Governors forge a new covenant with the Governor and Legislature that commits the State University System to greater efficiency,

productivity and accountability in return for increased state allocations and expanded autonomy;

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Board of Trustees has identified low tuition and other funding challenges to be significant impediments to the University of Florida achieving its goal of becoming a top ten public university;

WHEREAS, the University of Florida's tuition and fees are the second lowest in the State University System and the lowest among the nation's top 75 public universities;

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Board of Trustees has unanimously approved a resolution in support of the Academic Enhancement Program to be funded by a fee of \$500 per semester to enhance the University's academic and research program and provide funding to help the University achieve the goal of becoming a top 10 public research university;

WHEREAS, the Florida Board of Governors has approved the Academic Enhancement Program as a fee that is not covered by the Florida Prepaid College Program or the Bright Futures Program;

WHEREAS, the University of Florida student government has adopted resolutions in support of the Academic Enhancement Program, with student input;

NOW, THEREFORE, the University of Florida Board of Trustees, on this 29th day of March, 2007, does hereby adopt this resolution in support of the Pappas Report recommendations for addressing the Florida State University System's resource constraints.