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# **Education Committee**

**Tuesday, February 27, 2018**

**1:30 PM**

**Reed Hall**

**Revised Action Packet**

# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Education Committee

2/27/2018 1:30PM

**Location:** Reed Hall (102 HOB)

### Summary:

#### Education Committee

*Tuesday February 27, 2018 01:30 pm*

|                  |                                     |          |         |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| CS/HB 423        | Favorable With Committee Substitute | Yeas: 18 | Nays: 1 |
| Amendment 126639 | Adopted Without Objection           |          |         |
| Amendment 943889 | Adopted Without Objection           |          |         |
| Amendment 801877 | Failed to Adopt                     |          |         |
| Amendment 350827 | Withdrawn                           |          |         |
| PCS for HB 495   | Favorable                           | Yeas: 18 | Nays: 0 |
| CS/HB 1213       | Favorable                           | Yeas: 19 | Nays: 0 |

Committee meeting was reported out: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:19PM

# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Education Committee

2/27/2018 1:30PM

Location: Reed Hall (102 HOB)

### Attendance:

|                        | <i>Present</i> | <i>Absent</i> | <i>Excused</i> |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Michael Bileca (Chair) | X              |               |                |
| Larry Ahern            | X              |               |                |
| Bruce Antone           | X              |               |                |
| Robert Asencio         | X              |               |                |
| Kimberly Daniels       | X              |               |                |
| Manny Diaz, Jr.        | X              |               |                |
| Byron Donalds          | X              |               |                |
| Jay Fant               |                |               | X              |
| Jason Fischer          | X              |               |                |
| Margaret Good          | X              |               |                |
| Shevrin Jones          |                |               | X              |
| Chris Latvala          | X              |               |                |
| Larry Lee, Jr.         | X              |               |                |
| Amber Mariano          | X              |               |                |
| Rene Plasencia         | X              |               |                |
| Mel Ponder             | X              |               |                |
| Elizabeth Porter       | X              |               |                |
| Jake Raburn            | X              |               |                |
| Barrington Russell     | X              |               |                |
| Charlie Stone          | X              |               |                |
| Jennifer Sullivan      | X              |               |                |
| <b>Totals:</b>         | <b>19</b>      | <b>0</b>      | <b>2</b>       |

Committee meeting was reported out: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:19PM

# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Education Committee

2/27/2018 1:30PM

**Location:** Reed Hall (102 HOB)

**CS/HB 423 : Higher Education**

*Favorable With Committee Substitute*

|                        | Yea | Nay                  | No Vote | Absentee<br>Yea | Absentee<br>Nay |
|------------------------|-----|----------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Larry Ahern            | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Bruce Antone           | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Robert Asencio         |     | X                    |         |                 |                 |
| Kimberly Daniels       | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Manny Diaz, Jr.        | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Byron Donalds          | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Jay Fant               |     |                      | X       |                 |                 |
| Jason Fischer          | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Margaret Good          | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Shevrin Jones          |     |                      | X       |                 |                 |
| Chris Latvala          | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Larry Lee, Jr.         | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Amber Mariano          | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Rene Plasencia         | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Mel Ponder             | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Elizabeth Porter       | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Jake Raburn            | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Barrington Russell     | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Charlie Stone          | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Jennifer Sullivan      | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Michael Biléca (Chair) | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| <b>Total Yeas: 18</b>  |     | <b>Total Nays: 1</b> |         |                 |                 |

**CS/HB 423 Amendments**

**Amendment 126639**

*Adopted Without Objection*

**Amendment 943889**

*Adopted Without Objection*

**Amendment 801877**

*Failed to Adopt*

**Amendment 350827**

*Withdrawn*

Committee meeting was reported out: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:19PM

# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Education Committee

2/27/2018 1:30PM

**Location:** Reed Hall (102 HOB)

**CS/HB 423 : Higher Education (continued)**

### Appearances:

Amendment 801877

Lettelleir, Matthew (Lobbyist) - Proponent

St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce

100 2nd Ave N Suite 150

St Petersburg FL

Phone: (727) 643-0200

Sanchez, Genesis (General Public) - Waive In Support

Student

Tallahassee FL

Cordova, Julian (General Public) - Waive In Support

Student

Tallahassee FL 32309

Ready, Kelvin (General Public) - Waive In Support

Student Senator, FSU

Auburndale FL 33813

Sanchez, Silvia (General Public) - Waive In Support

4934 Flora Drive

Melbourne FL 32934

Phone: 321-698-8390

Ogletree, Marshall (Lobbyist) - Opponent

United Faculty of Florida

United Faculty of Florida 306 East Park Avenue

Tallahassee FL 32301

Phone: (850) 224-8220

Zander, Skylar (Lobbyist) - Waive In Support

Americans for Prosperity

Deputy State Director

200 W College Ave

Tallahassee FL 32301

Phone: (850) 728-4522

Manson, Joseph (General Public) - Waive In Support

2308 S Lila Lane

Tampa FL

Phone: 813-767-8322

Shatzer, Blake (General Public) - Waive In Support

1073 Lake Forest Blvd

Jacksonville FL 32208

Grace Hancock (General Public) - Waive In Support

Committee meeting was reported out: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:19PM

# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Education Committee

2/27/2018 1:30PM

**Location:** Reed Hall (102 HOB)

**CS/HB 423 : Higher Education (continued)**

**Appearances: (continued)**

Choulagh, Naomi (General Public) - Waive In Support

1447 Stone Rd, #24

Tallahassee FL 32303

Phone: 850-602-5542

Minor, Demetrius (Lobbyist) - Proponent

Americans for Prosperity

200 W College Ave Suite 113

Tallahassee FL 32301

Phone: (727) 270-1407

Committee meeting was reported out: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:19PM



Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
 ADOPTED AS AMENDED \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
 ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
 FAILED TO ADOPT \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
 WITHDRAWN \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
 OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

*Adopted without  
Objection  
2-27-18*

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Education Committee  
2 Representative Rodrigues offered the following:

4 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

5 Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

6 Section 1. This act shall be cited as the "Florida  
7 Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2018."

8 Section 2. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5) of  
9 section 1001.706, Florida Statutes, are amended and paragraph  
10 (h) of that section is added to read:

11 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

12 (5) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ACCOUNTABILITY.—

13 (b) The Board of Governors shall develop a strategic plan  
14 specifying goals and objectives for the State University System  
15 and each constituent university, including each university's



Amendment No. 1

16 contribution to overall system goals and objectives. The  
17 strategic plan must:

18 1. Include performance metrics and standards common for  
19 all institutions and metrics and standards unique to  
20 institutions depending on institutional core missions,  
21 including, but not limited to, student admission requirements,  
22 retention, graduation, percentage of graduates who have attained  
23 employment, percentage of graduates enrolled in continued  
24 education, licensure passage, average wages of employed  
25 graduates, average cost per graduate, excess hours, student loan  
26 burden and default rates, faculty awards, total annual research  
27 expenditures, patents, licenses and royalties, intellectual  
28 property, startup companies, annual giving, endowments, and  
29 well-known, highly respected national rankings for institutional  
30 and program achievements.

31 2. Consider reports and recommendations of the Higher  
32 Education Coordinating Council pursuant to s. 1004.015 and the  
33 Articulation Coordinating Committee pursuant to s. 1007.01.

34 3. Include student enrollment and performance data  
35 delineated by method of instruction, including, but not limited  
36 to, traditional, online, and distance learning instruction.

37 4. Include criteria for designating baccalaureate degree  
38 and master's degree programs at specified universities as high-  
39 demand programs of emphasis. Fifty percent of the criteria for  
40 designation as high-demand programs of emphasis must be based on

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Amendment No. 1

41 achievement of performance outcome thresholds determined by the  
42 Board of Governors, and 50 percent of the criteria must be based  
43 on achievement of performance outcome thresholds specifically  
44 linked to:

45 a. Job placement in employment of 36 hours or more per  
46 week and average full-time wages of graduates of the degree  
47 programs 1 year and 5 years after graduation, based in part on  
48 data provided in the economic security report of employment and  
49 earning outcomes produced annually pursuant to s. 445.07.

50 b. Data-driven gap analyses, conducted by the Board of  
51 Governors, of the state's job market demands and the outlook for  
52 jobs that require a baccalaureate or higher degree. Each state  
53 university must use the gap analyses to identify internship  
54 opportunities for students to benefit from mentorship by  
55 industry experts, earn industry certifications, and become  
56 employed in high-demand fields.

57 (c) The Board of Governors shall develop an accountability  
58 plan for the State University System and each constituent  
59 university. The accountability plan must address institutional  
60 and system achievement of goals and objectives specified in the  
61 strategic plan adopted pursuant to paragraph (b) and must be  
62 submitted as part of its legislative budget request. Each  
63 university shall submit, as a component of the university's  
64 annual accountability plan, information on the effectiveness of  
65 its plan for improving 4-year graduation rates and the level of

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Amendment No. 1

66 financial assistance provided to students pursuant to paragraph  
67 (h).

68 (h) By June 1, 2018, each university board of trustees  
69 shall submit a comprehensive proposal to improve undergraduate  
70 4-year graduation rates to the Board of Governors for  
71 implementation beginning in the fall 2018 academic semester.

72 The proposal must:

73 1. Identify academic, financial, policy, and curricular  
74 incentives and disincentives for timely graduation.

75 2. Outline the implementation of a proactive financial aid  
76 program to enable full-time students with financial need to take  
77 at least 15 credit hours in the fall and spring semesters.

78 3. Include assurances that there will be no increased cost  
79 to students.

80 Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2), paragraph (c)  
81 of subsection (5), and subsections (6), (7), and (8) of section  
82 1001.7065, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

83 1001.7065 Preeminent state research universities program.—

84 (2) ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE STANDARDS.—The  
85 following academic and research excellence standards are  
86 established for the preeminent state research universities  
87 program:

88 (d) A 4-year graduation rate of 60 percent or higher for  
89 full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually  
90 to the IPEDS. However, for the 2018 determination of a state

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Amendment No. 1

91 university's preeminence designation and the related  
92 distribution of the 2018-2019 fiscal year appropriation  
93 associated with preeminence and emerging preeminence, a  
94 university is considered to have satisfied this graduation rate  
95 measure by attaining a 6-year graduation rate of 70 percent or  
96 higher by October 1, 2017, for full-time, first-time-in-college  
97 students, as reported annually to the IPEDS and confirmed by the  
98 Board of Governors.

99 (5) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM  
100 SUPPORT.—

101 (c) The award of funds under this subsection is contingent  
102 upon funding provided by the Legislature ~~in the General~~  
103 ~~Appropriations Act~~ to support the preeminent state research  
104 universities program created under this section. Funding  
105 increases appropriated beyond the amounts funded in the previous  
106 fiscal year shall be distributed as follows:

107 1. Each designated preeminent state research university  
108 that meets the criteria in paragraph (a) shall receive an equal  
109 amount of funding.

110 2. Each designated emerging preeminent state research  
111 university that meets the criteria in paragraph (b) shall,  
112 beginning in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, receive an amount of  
113 funding that is equal to one-fourth ~~one-half~~ of the total  
114 increased amount awarded to each designated preeminent state  
115 research university.

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Amendment No. 1

116       ~~(6) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COURSE~~  
117       ~~REQUIREMENT AUTHORITY. In order to provide a jointly shared~~  
118       ~~educational experience, a university that is designated a~~  
119       ~~preeminent state research university may require its incoming~~  
120       ~~first-time-in-college students to take a six-credit set of~~  
121       ~~unique courses specifically determined by the university and~~  
122       ~~published on the university's website. The university may~~  
123       ~~stipulate that credit for such courses may not be earned through~~  
124       ~~any acceleration mechanism pursuant to s. 1007.27 or s. 1007.271~~  
125       ~~or any other transfer credit. All accelerated credits earned up~~  
126       ~~to the limits specified in ss. 1007.27 and 1007.271 shall be~~  
127       ~~applied toward graduation at the student's request.~~

128       ~~(6)(7)~~ PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY FLEXIBILITY  
129       AUTHORITY.—The Board of Governors is encouraged to identify and  
130       grant all reasonable, feasible authority and flexibility to  
131       ensure that each designated preeminent state research university  
132       and each designated emerging preeminent state research  
133       university is free from unnecessary restrictions.

134       ~~(7)(8)~~ PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT THE STATE  
135       UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.—The Board of Governors shall ~~is encouraged to~~  
136       establish standards and measures whereby individual  
137       undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs in  
138       state universities which ~~that~~ objectively reflect national  
139       excellence can be identified and make recommendations to the



Amendment No. 1

140 Legislature by September 1, 2018, as to how any such programs  
141 could be enhanced and promoted.

142 Section 4. Section 1001.92, Florida Statutes, is amended  
143 to read:

144 1001.92 State University System Performance-Based  
145 Incentive.—

146 (1) A State University System Performance-Based Incentive  
147 shall be awarded to state universities using performance-based  
148 metrics adopted by the Board of Governors of the State  
149 University System. Beginning with the Board of Governors'  
150 determination of each university's performance improvement and  
151 achievement ratings for 2018, and the related distribution of  
152 the 2018-2019 fiscal year appropriation, the performance-based  
153 metrics must include 4-year graduation rates; retention rates;  
154 postgraduation education rates; degree production;  
155 affordability; postgraduation employment and salaries, including  
156 wage thresholds that reflect the added value of a baccalaureate  
157 degree; access rate, based on the percentage of undergraduate  
158 students enrolled during the fall term who received a Pell Grant  
159 during the fall term; and other metrics approved by the board in  
160 a formally noticed meeting. The board shall adopt benchmarks to  
161 evaluate each state university's performance on the metrics to  
162 measure the state university's achievement of institutional  
163 excellence or need for improvement and minimum requirements for  
164 eligibility to receive performance funding. Access rate

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Amendment No. 1

165 benchmarks must be differentiated and scored to reflect the  
166 varying access rate levels among the state universities;  
167 however, the scoring system may not include bonus points.

168 (2) Each fiscal year, the amount of funds available for  
169 allocation to the state universities based on the performance-  
170 based funding model shall consist of the state's investment in  
171 performance funding plus institutional investments consisting of  
172 funds deducted from the base funding of each state university in  
173 the State University System in an amount provided by the  
174 Legislature in the General Appropriations Act. The Board of  
175 Governors shall establish minimum performance funding  
176 eligibility thresholds for the state's investment and the  
177 institutional investments. A state university that meets the  
178 minimum institutional investment eligibility threshold, but  
179 fails to meet the minimum state investment eligibility  
180 threshold, shall have its institutional investment restored but  
181 is ineligible for a share of the state's investment in  
182 performance funding. The institutional investment shall be  
183 restored for each institution eligible for the state's  
184 investment under the performance-based funding model.

185 (4) Distributions of performance funding, as provided in  
186 this section, shall be made by the Legislature to each of the  
187 state universities ~~listed in the Education and General~~  
188 ~~Activities category in the General Appropriations Act.~~



Amendment No. 1

189 (5) By October 1 of each year, the Board of Governors  
190 shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and  
191 the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report on the  
192 previous fiscal year's performance funding allocation which must  
193 reflect the rankings and award distributions.

194 (6) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations to  
195 administer this section.

196 Section 5. Section 1004.097, Florida Statutes, is created  
197 to read:

198 1004.097 .- Free expression on campus.-

199 (1) SHORT TITLE.-This section may be cited as the "Campus  
200 Free Expression Act."

201 (2) DEFINITIONS.-

202 (a) "Commercial speech" means speech where the individual  
203 is engaged in commerce, where the intended audience is  
204 commercial or actual or potential consumers, and where the  
205 content of the message is commercial.

206 (b) "Free speech zone" means an area on a public  
207 institution of higher education's campus designated for the  
208 purpose of engaging in expressive activities.

209 (c) "Material and substantial disruption" means any  
210 conduct that intentionally and significantly hinders another  
211 person's or group's expressive rights. The term does not include  
212 conduct that is protected under the First Amendment to the  
213 United States Constitution and Art. I of the State Constitution,



Amendment No. 1

214 including, but not limited to, lawful protests and counter-  
215 protests in the outdoor areas of campus or minor, brief, or  
216 fleeting nonviolent disruptions that are isolated or brief in  
217 duration.

218 (d) "Outdoor areas of campus" means generally accessible  
219 areas of a public institution of higher education's campus where  
220 members of the campus community are commonly allowed, including  
221 grassy areas, walkways, or other similar common areas. The term  
222 does not include outdoor areas of campus where access is  
223 restricted.

224 (e) "Public institution of higher education" means any  
225 public technical center, state college, state university, law  
226 school, medical school, dental school, or other Florida College  
227 System institution as defined in s. 1000.21.

228 (3) RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH ACTIVITIES.—

229 (a) Expressive activities protected under the First  
230 Amendment to the United States Constitution and Art. I of the  
231 State Constitution include, but are not limited to, any lawful  
232 oral or written communication of ideas, including all forms of  
233 peaceful assembly, protests, and speeches; distributing  
234 literature; carrying signs; circulating petitions; and the  
235 recording and publication, including the Internet publication,  
236 of video or audio recorded in outdoor areas of campus of public  
237 institutions of higher education. Expressive activities  
238 protected by this section do not include commercial speech.

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Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM





Amendment No. 1

239 (b) A person who wishes to engage in an expressive  
240 activity in the outdoor areas of campus may do so freely,  
241 spontaneously, and contemporaneously as long as the person's  
242 conduct is lawful and does not materially and substantially  
243 disrupt the functioning of the public institution of higher  
244 education or infringe upon the rights of other individuals or  
245 organizations to engage in expressive activities.

246 (c) The outdoor areas of campus are considered traditional  
247 public forums for individuals, organizations, and guest  
248 speakers. A public institution of higher education may create  
249 and enforce restrictions that are reasonable and content-neutral  
250 on time, place, and manner of expression and that are narrowly  
251 tailored to a significant institutional interest. Restrictions  
252 must be clear, published, and provide for ample alternative  
253 means of expression.

254 (d) A public institution of higher education may not  
255 designate any area of campus as a free speech zone or otherwise  
256 create policies restricting expressive activities to a  
257 particular outdoor area of campus, except as provided in  
258 paragraph (c).

259 (e) Students, faculty, or staff of a public institution of  
260 higher education may not materially disrupt previously scheduled  
261 or reserved activities on campus occurring at the same time.

262 (4) CAUSE OF ACTION.—Any person whose expressive rights  
263 are violated by an action prohibited under this section may



Amendment No. 1

264 bring an action against a public institution of higher education  
265 in a court of competent jurisdiction to obtain declaratory and  
266 injunctive relief, reasonable court costs, and attorney fees.

267 Section 6. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) and paragraph (b)  
268 of subsection (5) of section 1004.28, Florida Statutes, are  
269 amended to read:

270 1004.28 Direct-support organizations; use of property;  
271 board of directors; activities; audit; facilities.—

272 (2) USE OF PROPERTY.—

273 (b) The board of trustees, in accordance with regulations  
274 ~~rules~~ and guidelines of the Board of Governors, shall prescribe  
275 by regulation ~~rule~~ conditions with which a university direct-  
276 support organization must comply in order to use property,  
277 facilities, or personal services at any state university,  
278 including that personal services must comply with the  
279 requirements of s. 1012.976. Such regulations ~~rules~~ shall  
280 provide for budget and audit review and oversight by the board  
281 of trustees, including thresholds for approval of purchases,  
282 acquisitions, projects, and issuance of debt. No later than July  
283 1, 2019, the transfer of a state appropriation by the board of  
284 trustees to any direct-support organization may only include  
285 funds pledged for capital projects. Beginning July 1, 2019, and  
286 annually thereafter, each university board of trustees shall  
287 report to the Legislature the amount of state appropriations  
288 transferred to any direct-support organization during the

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Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

289 previous fiscal year, the purpose for which the funds were  
290 transferred, and the remaining balance of any funds transferred.

291 (c) The board of trustees may not transfer any funds to  
292 and shall not permit the use of property, facilities, or  
293 personal services at any state university by any university  
294 direct-support organization that does not provide equal  
295 employment opportunities to all persons regardless of race,  
296 color, religion, gender, age, or national origin.

297 (d) The board of trustees may not permit the use of state  
298 funds for travel expenses by any university direct-support  
299 organization.

300 (3) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The chair of the university board  
301 of trustees shall may appoint at least one a representative to  
302 the board of directors and the executive committee of any  
303 direct-support organization established under this section. The  
304 president of the university for which the direct-support  
305 organization is established, or his or her designee, shall also  
306 serve on the board of directors and the executive committee of  
307 any direct-support organization established to benefit that  
308 university. The university board of trustees shall approve all  
309 appointments to any direct-support organization not authorized  
310 by this subsection.

311 (4) ACTIVITIES; RESTRICTION.—A university direct-support  
312 organization is prohibited from giving, either directly or  
313 indirectly, any gift to a political committee as defined in s.

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Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

314 106.011 for any purpose ~~other than those certified by a majority~~  
315 ~~roll call vote of the governing board of the direct support~~  
316 ~~organization at a regularly scheduled meeting as being directly~~  
317 ~~related to the educational mission of the university.~~

318 (5) ANNUAL AUDIT; PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION; PUBLIC  
319 MEETINGS EXEMPTION.—

320 (b) ~~All records of the organization~~ Other than the  
321 auditor's report, management letter, any records related to the  
322 expenditure of state funds, any records related to the  
323 expenditure of private funds for travel, all records of the  
324 organization and any supplemental data requested by the Board of  
325 Governors, the university board of trustees, the Auditor  
326 General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
327 Government Accountability shall be confidential and exempt from  
328 s. 119.07(1).

329 Section 7. Section 1004.6497, Florida Statutes, is created  
330 to read:

331 1004.6497 World Class Faculty and Scholar Program.—

332 (1) PURPOSE AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The World Class  
333 Faculty and Scholar Program is established to fund and support  
334 the efforts of state universities to recruit and retain  
335 exemplary faculty and research scholars. It is the intent of the  
336 Legislature to elevate the national competitiveness of Florida's  
337 state universities through faculty and scholar recruitment and  
338 retention.

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Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

339       (2) INVESTMENTS.—Retention, recruitment, and recognition  
340 efforts, activities, and investments may include, but are not  
341 limited to, investments in research-centric cluster hires,  
342 faculty research and research commercialization efforts,  
343 instructional and research infrastructure, undergraduate student  
344 participation in research, professional development, awards for  
345 outstanding performance, and postdoctoral fellowships.

346       (3) FUNDING AND USE.—Funding for the program shall be as  
347 provided by the Legislature. Each state university shall use the  
348 funds only for the purpose and investments authorized under this  
349 section. These funds may not be used to construct buildings.

350       (4) ACCOUNTABILITY.—By March 15 of each year, the Board of  
351 Governors shall provide to the Governor, the President of the  
352 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report  
353 summarizing information from the universities in the State  
354 University System, including, but not limited to:

355           (a) Specific expenditure information as it relates to the  
356 investments identified in subsection (2).

357           (b) The impact of those investments in elevating the  
358 national competitiveness of the universities, specifically  
359 relating to:

360               1. The success in recruiting research faculty and the  
361 resulting research funding;

362               2. The 4-year graduation rate for undergraduate students;



Amendment No. 1

363 3. The number of undergraduate courses offered with fewer  
364 than 50 students; and

365 4. The increase in national academic standing of targeted  
366 programs, specifically advancement in ranking of the targeted  
367 programs among top 50 universities in well-known and highly  
368 respected national public university rankings, including, but  
369 not limited to, the U.S. News and World Report rankings, which  
370 reflect national preeminence, using the most recent rankings.

371 Section 8. Section 1004.6498, Florida Statutes, is created  
372 to read:

373 1004.6498 State University Professional and Graduate  
374 Degree Excellence Program.—

375 (1) PURPOSE.—The State University Professional and  
376 Graduate Degree Excellence Program is established to fund and  
377 support the efforts of state universities to enhance the quality  
378 and excellence of professional and graduate schools and degree  
379 programs in medicine, law, and business and expand the economic  
380 impact of state universities.

381 (2) INVESTMENTS.—Quality improvement efforts may include,  
382 but are not limited to, targeted investments in faculty,  
383 students, research, infrastructure, and other strategic  
384 endeavors to elevate the national and global prominence of state  
385 university medicine, law, and graduate-level business programs.

386 (3) FUNDING AND USE.—Funding for the program shall be as  
387 provided by the Legislature. Each state university shall use the

126639 - h0423 strike.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

388 funds only for the purpose and investments authorized under this  
389 section. These funds may not be used to construct buildings.

390 (4) ACCOUNTABILITY.—By March 15 of each year, the Board of  
391 Governors shall provide to the Governor, the President of the  
392 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report  
393 summarizing information from the universities in the State  
394 University System, including, but not limited to:

395 (a) Specific expenditure information as it relates to the  
396 investments identified in subsection (2).

397 (b) The impact of those investments in elevating the  
398 national and global prominence of the state university medicine,  
399 law, and graduate-level business programs, specifically relating  
400 to:

401 1. The first-time pass rate on the United States Medical  
402 Licensing Examination;

403 2. The first-time pass rate on The Florida Bar  
404 Examination;

405 3. The percentage of graduates enrolled or employed at a  
406 wage threshold that reflects the added value of a graduate-level  
407 business degree;

408 4. The advancement in the rankings of the state university  
409 medicine, law, and graduate-level programs in well-known and  
410 highly respected national graduate-level university rankings,  
411 including, but not limited to, the U.S. News and World Report



Amendment No. 1

412 rankings, which reflect national preeminence, using the most  
413 recent rankings; and

414 5. The added economic benefit of the universities to the  
415 state.

416 Section 9. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section  
417 1008.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

418 1008.30 Common placement testing for public postsecondary  
419 education.—

420 (5)

421 (c) A university board of trustees may contract with a  
422 Florida College System institution board of trustees for the  
423 Florida College System institution to provide developmental  
424 education on the state university campus. Any state university  
425 in which the percentage of incoming students requiring  
426 developmental education equals or exceeds the average percentage  
427 of such students for the Florida College System may offer  
428 developmental education without contracting with a Florida  
429 College System institution; however, any state university  
430 offering college-preparatory instruction as of January 1, 1996,  
431 may continue to provide developmental education instruction as  
432 defined in s. 1008.02(1) ~~such services.~~

433 Section 10. Subsection (7) of section 1009.22, Florida  
434 Statutes, is amended to read:

435 1009.22 Workforce education postsecondary student fees.—





Amendment No. 1

436 (7) Each district school board and Florida College System  
437 institution board of trustees is authorized to establish a  
438 separate fee for technology, not to exceed 5 percent of tuition  
439 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for resident students  
440 and not to exceed 5 percent of tuition and the out-of-state fee  
441 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for nonresident  
442 students. Revenues generated from the technology fee shall be  
443 used to enhance instructional technology resources for students  
444 and faculty and shall not be included in any award under the  
445 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Fifty percent of  
446 technology fee revenues may be pledged by a Florida College  
447 System institution board of trustees as a dedicated revenue  
448 source for the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase  
449 agreements, not to exceed the useful life of the asset being  
450 financed. Revenues generated from the technology fee may not be  
451 bonded.

452 Section 11. Subsection (10) of section 1009.23, Florida  
453 Statutes, is amended to read:

454 1009.23 Florida College System institution student fees.—

455 (10) Each Florida College System institution board of  
456 trustees is authorized to establish a separate fee for  
457 technology, which may not exceed 5 percent of tuition per credit  
458 hour or credit-hour equivalent for resident students and may not  
459 exceed 5 percent of tuition and the out-of-state fee per credit  
460 hour or credit-hour equivalent for nonresident students.

126639 - h0423 strike.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

461 Revenues generated from the technology fee shall be used to  
462 enhance instructional technology resources for students and  
463 faculty. The technology fee may apply to both college credit and  
464 developmental education ~~and shall not be included in any award~~  
465 ~~under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.~~ Fifty  
466 percent of technology fee revenues may be pledged by a Florida  
467 College System institution board of trustees as a dedicated  
468 revenue source for the repayment of debt, including lease-  
469 purchase agreements, not to exceed the useful life of the asset  
470 being financed. Revenues generated from the technology fee may  
471 not be bonded.

472 Section 12. Subsection (13), paragraph (r) of subsection  
473 (14), paragraphs (a), (b), and (e) of subsection (16), and  
474 subsection (20) of section 1009.24, Florida Statutes, are  
475 amended to read:

476 1009.24 State university student fees.—

477 (13) Each university board of trustees may establish a  
478 technology fee of up to 5 percent of the tuition per credit  
479 hour. The revenue from this fee shall be used to enhance  
480 instructional technology resources for students and faculty. ~~The~~  
481 ~~technology fee may not be included in any award under the~~  
482 ~~Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program established pursuant~~  
483 ~~to ss. 1009.53-1009.538.~~



Amendment No. 1

484 (14) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (15), each  
485 university board of trustees is authorized to establish the  
486 following fees:

487 (r) Traffic and parking fines, charges for parking decals,  
488 and transportation access fees. Only universitywide  
489 transportation access fees may be included in any state  
490 financial assistance award authorized under part III of this  
491 chapter, as specifically authorized by law or the General  
492 Appropriations Act.

493  
494 With the exception of housing rental rates and except as  
495 otherwise provided, fees assessed pursuant to paragraphs (h)-(s)  
496 shall be based on reasonable costs of services. The Board of  
497 Governors shall adopt regulations and timetables necessary to  
498 implement the fees and fines authorized under this subsection.  
499 The fees assessed under this subsection may be used for debt  
500 only as authorized under s. 1010.62.

501 (16) Each university board of trustees may establish a  
502 tuition differential for undergraduate courses upon receipt of  
503 approval from the Board of Governors. However, beginning July 1,  
504 2014, the Board of Governors may only approve the establishment  
505 of or an increase in tuition differential for a state research  
506 university designated as a preeminent state research university  
507 pursuant to s. 1001.7065(3). The tuition differential shall  
508 promote improvements in the quality of undergraduate education

126639 - h0423 strike.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

509 and shall provide financial aid to undergraduate students who  
510 exhibit financial need.

511 (a) Seventy percent of the revenues from the tuition  
512 differential shall be expended for purposes of undergraduate  
513 education. Such expenditures may include, but are not limited  
514 to, increasing course offerings, improving graduation rates,  
515 increasing the percentage of undergraduate students who are  
516 taught by faculty, decreasing student-faculty ratios, providing  
517 salary increases for faculty who have a history of excellent  
518 teaching in undergraduate courses, improving the efficiency of  
519 the delivery of undergraduate education through academic  
520 advisement and counseling, and reducing the percentage of  
521 students who graduate with excess hours. This expenditure for  
522 undergraduate education may not be used to pay the salaries of  
523 graduate teaching assistants. Except as otherwise provided in  
524 this subsection, the remaining 30 percent of the revenues from  
525 the tuition differential, or the equivalent amount of revenue  
526 from private sources, shall be expended to provide financial aid  
527 to undergraduate students who exhibit financial need, including  
528 students who are scholarship recipients under s. 1009.984, to  
529 meet the cost of university attendance. This expenditure for  
530 need-based financial aid shall not supplant the amount of need-  
531 based aid provided to undergraduate students in the preceding  
532 fiscal year from financial aid fee revenues, the direct  
533 appropriation for financial assistance provided to state

126639 - h0423 strike.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

534 universities in the General Appropriations Act, or from private  
535 sources. The total amount of tuition differential waived under  
536 subparagraph (b)7. ~~(b)8.~~ may be included in calculating the  
537 expenditures for need-based financial aid to undergraduate  
538 students required by this subsection. If the entire tuition and  
539 fee costs of resident students who have applied for and received  
540 Pell Grant funds have been met and the university has excess  
541 funds remaining from the 30 percent of the revenues from the  
542 tuition differential required to be used to assist students who  
543 exhibit financial need, the university may expend the excess  
544 portion in the same manner as required for the other 70 percent  
545 of the tuition differential revenues.

546 (b) Each tuition differential is subject to the following  
547 conditions:

548 1. The tuition differential may be assessed on one or more  
549 undergraduate courses or on all undergraduate courses at a state  
550 university.

551 2. The tuition differential may vary by course or courses,  
552 by campus or center location, and by institution. Each  
553 university board of trustees shall strive to maintain and  
554 increase enrollment in degree programs related to math, science,  
555 high technology, and other state or regional high-need fields  
556 when establishing tuition differentials by course.

557 3. For each state university that is designated as a  
558 preeminent state research university by the Board of Governors,



Amendment No. 1

559 pursuant to s. 1001.7065, the aggregate sum of tuition and the  
560 tuition differential may be increased by no more than 6 percent  
561 of the total charged for the aggregate sum of these fees in the  
562 preceding fiscal year. The tuition differential may be increased  
563 if the university meets or exceeds performance standard targets  
564 for that university established annually by the Board of  
565 Governors for the following performance standards, amounting to  
566 no more than a 2-percent increase in the tuition differential  
567 for each performance standard:

568 a. An increase in the 4-year ~~6-year~~ graduation rate for  
569 full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually  
570 to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

571 b. An increase in the total annual research expenditures.

572 c. An increase in the total patents awarded by the United  
573 States Patent and Trademark Office for the most recent years.

574 4. The aggregate sum of undergraduate tuition and fees per  
575 credit hour, including the tuition differential, may not exceed  
576 the national average of undergraduate tuition and fees at 4-year  
577 degree-granting public postsecondary educational institutions.

578 ~~5. The tuition differential shall not be included in any~~  
579 ~~award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program~~  
580 ~~established pursuant to ss. 1009.53-1009.538.~~

581 ~~5.6.~~ Beneficiaries having prepaid tuition contracts  
582 pursuant to s. 1009.98(2)(b) which were in effect on July 1,



Amendment No. 1

583 2007, and which remain in effect, are exempt from the payment of  
584 the tuition differential.

585 ~~6.7-~~ The tuition differential may not be charged to any  
586 student who was in attendance at the university before July 1,  
587 2007, and who maintains continuous enrollment.

588 ~~7.8-~~ The tuition differential may be waived by the  
589 university for students who meet the eligibility requirements  
590 for the Florida public student assistance grant established in  
591 s. 1009.50.

592 ~~8.9-~~ Subject to approval by the Board of Governors, the  
593 tuition differential authorized pursuant to this subsection may  
594 take effect with the 2009 fall term.

595 (e) The Board of Governors shall submit a report to the  
596 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
597 Representatives, and the Governor describing the implementation  
598 of the provisions of this subsection no later than February 1 of  
599 each year. The report shall summarize proposals received by the  
600 board during the preceding fiscal year and actions taken by the  
601 board in response to such proposals. In addition, the report  
602 shall provide the following information for each university that  
603 has been approved by the board to assess a tuition differential:

604 1. The course or courses for which the tuition  
605 differential was assessed and the amount assessed.

606 2. The total revenues generated by the tuition  
607 differential.

126639 - h0423 strike.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM

Page 25 of 45



Amendment No. 1

608 3. With respect to waivers authorized under subparagraph  
609 (b)7. ~~(b)8.~~, the number of students eligible for a waiver, the  
610 number of students receiving a waiver, and the value of waivers  
611 provided.

612 4. Detailed expenditures of the revenues generated by the  
613 tuition differential.

614 5. Changes in retention rates, graduation rates, the  
615 percentage of students graduating with more than 110 percent of  
616 the hours required for graduation, pass rates on licensure  
617 examinations, the number of undergraduate course offerings, the  
618 percentage of undergraduate students who are taught by faculty,  
619 student-faculty ratios, and the average salaries of faculty who  
620 teach undergraduate courses.

621 (20) Each state university shall publicly notice and  
622 notify all enrolled students of any proposal to change ~~increase~~  
623 tuition or fees at least 28 days before its consideration at a  
624 board of trustees meeting. The notice must:

625 (a) Include the date and time of the meeting at which the  
626 proposal will be considered.

627 (b) Specifically outline the details of existing tuition  
628 and fees, the rationale for the proposed change ~~increase~~, and  
629 how the funds from the proposed change ~~increase~~ will be used.

630 (c) Be posted on the university's website and issued in a  
631 press release.





Amendment No. 1

632 Section 13. Subsection (9) of section 1009.53, Florida  
633 Statutes, is amended to read:

634 1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.—

635 (9) A student may use a Florida Academic Scholars an award  
636 for summer term enrollment beginning in the 2018 summer term, as  
637 funded by the Legislature. A student may use a Florida Medallion  
638 Scholars award for summer term enrollment beginning in the 2019  
639 summer term, as funded by the Legislature. A student may use  
640 other Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards for  
641 summer term enrollment, if funded by the Legislature if funds  
642 are available.

643 Section 14. Subsection (2) of section 1009.534, Florida  
644 Statutes, is amended to read:

645 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

646 (2) A Florida Academic Scholar who is enrolled in a  
647 certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree program  
648 at a public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution is  
649 eligible, beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year, for an award  
650 equal to the amount necessary to pay 100 percent of tuition and  
651 fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7);  
652 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)-  
653 (13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable, and is eligible for an  
654 additional \$300 each fall and spring academic semester or the  
655 equivalent for textbooks, specified in the General



Amendment No. 1

656 ~~Appropriations Act~~ to assist with the payment of educational  
657 expenses.

658 Section 15. Subsection (2) of section 1009.535, Florida  
659 Statutes, is amended to read:

660 1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

661 (2) A Florida Medallion Scholar who is enrolled in a  
662 certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree program  
663 at a public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution is  
664 eligible, beginning in the fall 2018 semester, for an award  
665 equal to the amount necessary to pay 75 percent of tuition and  
666 fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7);  
667 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)-  
668 (13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable specified in the General  
669 ~~Appropriations Act~~ to assist with the payment of educational  
670 expenses.

671 Section 16. Subsections (1), (2), and (4) and paragraph  
672 (c) of subsection (5) of section 1009.701, Florida Statutes, are  
673 amended to read:

674 1009.701 First Generation Matching Grant Program.—

675 (1) The First Generation Matching Grant Program is created  
676 to enable each state university and Florida College System  
677 institution to provide donors with a matching grant incentive  
678 for contributions that will create grant-based student financial  
679 aid for undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need  
680 and whose parents, as defined in s. 1009.21(1), have not earned

126639 - h0423 strike.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

681 a baccalaureate degree. In the case of any individual who  
682 regularly resided with and received support from only one  
683 parent, an individual whose only such parent did not complete a  
684 baccalaureate degree would also be eligible.

685 (2) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the program  
686 shall be allocated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance  
687 to match private contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis;  
688 however, beginning in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, such funds  
689 shall be allocated at a ratio of \$2 of state funds to \$1 of  
690 private contributions. Contributions made to a state university  
691 or a Florida College System institution and pledged for the  
692 purposes of this section are eligible for state matching funds  
693 appropriated for this program and are not eligible for any other  
694 state matching grant program. Pledged contributions are not  
695 eligible for matching prior to the actual collection of the  
696 total funds. The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall  
697 reserve a proportionate allocation of the total appropriated  
698 funds for each state university and Florida College System  
699 institution on the basis of full-time equivalent enrollment.  
700 Funds that remain unmatched as of December 1 shall be  
701 reallocated to state universities and colleges that have  
702 remaining unmatched private contributions for the program on the  
703 basis of full-time equivalent enrollment.

704 (4) Each participating state university and Florida  
705 College System institution shall establish an application



Amendment No. 1

706 process, determine student eligibility for initial and renewal  
707 awards in conformance with subsection (5), identify the amount  
708 awarded to each recipient, and notify recipients of the amount  
709 of their awards.

710 (5) In order to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to  
711 this section, an applicant must:

712 (c) Be accepted at a state university or Florida College  
713 System institution.

714 Section 17. Subsections (2), (4), and (5) of section  
715 1009.893, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

716 1009.893 Benacquisto Scholarship Program.—

717 (2) The Benacquisto Scholarship Program is created to  
718 reward a ~~any Florida~~ high school graduate who receives  
719 recognition as a National Merit Scholar or National Achievement  
720 Scholar and who initially enrolls in the 2014-2015 academic year  
721 or, later, in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible  
722 Florida public or independent postsecondary educational  
723 institution.

724 (4) In order to be eligible for an award under the  
725 scholarship program, a student must meet the requirements of  
726 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b).+

727 (a) A student who is a resident of the state, ~~Be a state~~  
728 ~~resident~~ as determined in s. 1009.40 and rules of the State  
729 Board of Education, must:+



Amendment No. 1

730 1.(b) Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its  
731 equivalent pursuant to s. 1002.3105, s. 1003.4281, s. 1003.4282,  
732 or s. 1003.435 unless:

733 a.1. The student completes a home education program  
734 according to s. 1002.41; or

735 b.2. The student earns a high school diploma from a non-  
736 Florida school while living with a parent who is on military or  
737 public service assignment out of this state;

738 2.(c) Be accepted by and enroll in a Florida public or  
739 independent postsecondary educational institution that is  
740 regionally accredited; and

741 3.(d) Be enrolled full-time in a baccalaureate degree  
742 program at an eligible regionally accredited Florida public or  
743 independent postsecondary educational institution during the  
744 fall academic term following high school graduation.

745 (b) A student who initially enrolls in a baccalaureate  
746 degree program in the 2018-2019 academic year or later and who  
747 is not a resident of this state, as determined in s. 1009.40 and  
748 rules of the State Board of Education, must:

749 1. Physically reside in this state on or near the campus  
750 of the postsecondary educational institution in which the  
751 student is enrolled;

752 2. Earn a high school diploma from a school outside  
753 Florida which is comparable to a standard Florida high school  
754 diploma or its equivalent pursuant to s. 1002.3105, s.

126639 - h0423 strike.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

755 1003.4281, s. 1003.4282, or s. 1003.435 or must complete a home  
756 education program in another state; and

757 3. Be accepted by and enrolled full-time in a  
758 baccalaureate degree program at an eligible regionally  
759 accredited Florida public or independent postsecondary  
760 educational institution during the fall academic term following  
761 high school graduation.

762 (5)(a)1. An eligible student who meets the requirements of  
763 paragraph (4)(a), who is a National Merit Scholar or National  
764 Achievement Scholar, and who attends a Florida public  
765 postsecondary educational institution shall receive a  
766 scholarship award equal to the institutional cost of attendance  
767 minus the sum of the student's Florida Bright Futures  
768 Scholarship and National Merit Scholarship or National  
769 Achievement Scholarship.

770 2. An eligible student who meets the requirements under  
771 paragraph (4)(b), who is a National Merit Scholar, and who  
772 attends a Florida public postsecondary educational institution  
773 shall receive a scholarship award equal to the institutional  
774 cost of attendance for a resident of this state minus the  
775 student's National Merit Scholarship. Such student is exempt  
776 from the payment of out-of-state fees.

777 (b) An eligible student who is a National Merit Scholar or  
778 National Achievement Scholar and who attends a Florida  
779 independent postsecondary educational institution shall receive

126639 - h0423 strike.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

780 a scholarship award equal to the highest cost of attendance for  
781 a resident of this state enrolled at a Florida public  
782 university, as reported by the Board of Governors of the State  
783 University System, minus the sum of the student's Florida Bright  
784 Futures Scholarship and National Merit Scholarship or National  
785 Achievement Scholarship.

786 Section 18. Section 1009.894, Florida Statutes, is created  
787 to read:

788 1009.894 Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program.-  
789 The Legislature recognizes the vital contribution of farmworkers  
790 to the economy of this state. The Florida Farmworker Student  
791 Scholarship Program is created to provide scholarships for  
792 farmworkers, as defined in s. 420.503, and the children of such  
793 farmworkers.

794 (1) The Department of Education shall administer the  
795 Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program according to  
796 rules and procedures established by the State Board of  
797 Education. Up to 50 scholarships shall be awarded annually  
798 according to the criteria established in subsection (2) and  
799 contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature.

800 (2)(a) To be eligible for an initial scholarship, a  
801 student must, at a minimum:

802 1. Have a resident status as required by s. 1009.40 and  
803 rules of the State Board of Education;



Amendment No. 1

804 2. Earn a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average  
805 of 3.5 for all high school courses creditable toward a diploma;

806 3. Complete a minimum of 30 hours of community service;  
807 and

808 4. Have at least a 90 percent attendance rate and not have  
809 had any disciplinary action brought against him or her, as  
810 documented on the student's high school transcript.

811  
812 For purposes of this section, students who are undocumented for  
813 federal immigration purposes are not eligible for an award.

814 (b) The department shall rank eligible initial applicants  
815 for the purposes of awarding scholarships based on need, as  
816 determined by the department.

817 (c) To renew a scholarship awarded pursuant to this  
818 section, a student must maintain at least a cumulative grade  
819 point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale for college  
820 coursework.

821 (3) A scholarship recipient must enroll in a minimum of 12  
822 credit hours per term, or the equivalent, at a public  
823 postsecondary educational institution in this state to receive  
824 funding.

825 (4) A scholarship recipient may receive an award for a  
826 maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours required to  
827 complete an associate or baccalaureate degree program or receive  
828 an award for a maximum of 100 percent of the credit hours or

126639 - h0423 strike.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM





Amendment No. 1

829 clock hours required to complete up to 90 credit hours of a  
830 program that terminates in a career certificate. The scholarship  
831 recipient is eligible for an award equal to the amount required  
832 to pay the tuition and fees established under ss. 1009.22(3),  
833 (5), (6), and (7); 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11);  
834 and 1009.24(4), (7)-(13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable, at a  
835 public postsecondary educational institution in this state.  
836 Renewal scholarship awards must take precedence over new  
837 scholarship awards in a year in which funds are not sufficient  
838 to accommodate both initial and renewal awards. The scholarship  
839 must be prorated for any such year.

840 (5) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, the  
841 department shall annually issue awards from the scholarship  
842 program. Before the registration period each semester, the  
843 department shall transmit payment for each award to the  
844 president or director of the postsecondary educational  
845 institution, or his or her representative. However, the  
846 department may withhold payment if the receiving institution  
847 fails to submit the following reports or make the following  
848 refunds to the department:

849 (a) Each institution shall certify to the department the  
850 eligibility status of each student to receive a disbursement  
851 within 30 days before the end of its regular registration  
852 period, inclusive of a drop and add period. An institution is



Amendment No. 1

853 not required to reevaluate the student eligibility after the end  
854 of the drop and add period.

855 (b) An institution that receives funds from the  
856 scholarship program must certify to the department the amount of  
857 funds disbursed to each student and remit to the department any  
858 undisbursed advance within 60 days after the end of the regular  
859 registration period.

860 (6) The department shall allocate funds to the appropriate  
861 institutions and collect and maintain data regarding the  
862 scholarship program within the student financial assistance  
863 database as specified in s. 1009.94.

864 Section 19. Present paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection  
865 (10) of section 1009.98, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
866 paragraphs (f) and (g), respectively, and a new paragraph (e) is  
867 added to that subsection, to read:

868 1009.98 Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program.—

869 (10) PAYMENTS ON BEHALF OF QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES.—

870 (e) Notwithstanding the number of credit hours used by a  
871 state university to assess the amount for registration fees,  
872 tuition, tuition differential, or local fees, the amount paid by  
873 the board to any state university on behalf of a qualified  
874 beneficiary of an advance payment contract purchased before July  
875 1, 2024, may not exceed the number of credit hours taken by that  
876 qualified beneficiary at the state university.



Amendment No. 1

877 Section 20. The Division of Law Revision and Information  
878 is directed to substitute the term "Effective Access to Student  
879 Education Grant Program" for "Florida Resident Access Grant  
880 Program" and the term "Effective Access to Student Education  
881 grant" for "Florida resident access grant" wherever those terms  
882 appear in the Florida Statutes.

883 Section 21. By October 1, 2019, the Board of Governors, in  
884 consultation with the state universities, shall submit to the  
885 Legislature recommendations for future consideration on the most  
886 efficient process to achieve a complete performance-based  
887 continuous improvement model focused on outcomes that provides  
888 for the equitable distribution of performance funds. In addition  
889 to recommendations submitted by the Board of Governors, the  
890 Legislature shall review recommendations from an independent  
891 entity that consults with the Board of Governors for the purpose  
892 of receiving input on behalf of the state university system.  
893 Implementation of any recommendations shall not occur unless  
894 affirmatively enacted by the Legislature.

895 Section 22. For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, \$121,776,631 in  
896 recurring funds from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund and  
897 \$1,736,404 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund are  
898 appropriated to the Department of Education to implement this  
899 act. Of these funds, \$1,737,223 from the Educational Enhancement  
900 Trust Fund shall be used for 2019 summer term awards for Florida  
901 Bright Futures Academic Scholars, \$28,416,515 from the

126639 - h0423 strike.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

902 Educational Enhancement Trust Fund shall be used for 2019 summer  
903 term awards for Florida Bright Futures Medallion Scholars,  
904 \$91,622,893 from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund shall be  
905 used for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards,  
906 \$1,236,404 from the General Revenue Fund shall be used for the  
907 Benacquisto Scholarship Program, and \$500,000 from the General  
908 Revenue Fund shall be used for the Florida Farmworker Student  
909 Scholarship Program.

910 Section 23. Effective July 1, 2020, sections 1004.33 and  
911 1004.34, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

912 Section 24. Section 1004.335, Florida Statutes, is created  
913 to read:

914 1004.335 Accreditation consolidation of University of  
915 South Florida branch campuses.—

916 (1) No later than January 15, 2019, the Board of Trustees  
917 of the University of South Florida must adopt and submit to the  
918 Board of Governors an implementation plan to orderly phase out  
919 the separate accreditation of the University of South Florida  
920 St. Petersburg campus and the University of South Florida  
921 Sarasota/Manatee campus, which were conferred by the Southern  
922 Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges  
923 (SACSCOC) pursuant to ss. 1004.33 and 1004.34, respectively.

924 (2) The implementation plan must:

925 (a) Detail any necessary steps, and the timeline for such  
926 steps, to ensure that the separate accreditation for each campus

126639 - h0423 strike.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

927 is terminated no later than June 30, 2020. The implementation  
928 plan must also ensure that there is no lapse in institutional  
929 accreditation for any campus during the phasing-out process.

930 (b) Be designed and carried out in a manner that, to the  
931 extent possible, minimizes any disruption to students attending  
932 any University of South Florida campus, with an emphasis on  
933 ensuring that each student's opportunity to graduate from the  
934 university within 4 years of his or her initial first-time-in-  
935 college enrollment is not impeded as a result of the  
936 consolidation of SACSCOC accreditation.

937 (c) Provide that on or before July 1, 2020, the entirety  
938 of the University of South Florida, including all campuses and  
939 other component units of the university, shall operate under a  
940 single institutional accreditation from the SACSCOC.

941 (d) Provide that on each regularly scheduled submission  
942 date subsequent to July 1, 2020, the University of South Florida  
943 shall report consolidated data for all of the university's  
944 campuses and students to the Integrated Postsecondary Education  
945 Data System and to the Board of Governors. The Board of  
946 Governors shall use the consolidated data for purposes of  
947 determining eligibility for funding pursuant to ss. 1001.7065  
948 and 1001.92.

949 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 1001.7065 and  
950 1001.92 or any Board of Governors regulation to the contrary  
951 relating to the calculation of graduation rates and retention

126639 - h0423 strike.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

952 rates, a student who meets all of the following criteria may not  
953 be counted by the Board of Governors when calculating or  
954 confirming the graduation rate or the retention rate of the  
955 University of South Florida under those sections:

956 (a) The student was admitted to and initially enrolled  
957 before the spring 2019 semester as a first-time-in-college  
958 student at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg or the  
959 University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee.

960 (b) The student voluntarily disenrolled from all  
961 University of South Florida campuses without graduating before  
962 the date of termination of the separate SACSCOC accreditation of  
963 his or her admitting campus.

964 (4) This section expires July 1, 2020.

965 Section 25. Subsection (1) of section 1004.344, Florida  
966 Statutes, is amended to read:

967 1004.344 The Florida Center for the Partnerships for Arts  
968 Integrated Teaching.—

969 (1) The Florida Center for the Partnerships for Arts  
970 Integrated Teaching is created within the University of South  
971 Florida and shall be physically headquartered at the University  
972 of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee.

973 Section 26. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
974 law.

975

976

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Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

## T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

An act relating to higher education; providing a short title; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.; requiring state universities to identify internship opportunities in high-demand fields; revising requirements for state university accountability plans; requiring state university boards of trustees to submit a proposal to improve graduation rates by a specified date; providing requirements for such proposals; amending s. 1001.7065, F.S.; revising the preeminent state research universities program graduation rate requirements and funding distributions; specifying funding as provided by the Legislature; deleting the authority for such universities to stipulate a special course requirement for incoming students; requiring the Board of Governors to establish certain standards by a specified date; amending s. 1001.92, F.S.; requiring certain performance-based metrics to include specified graduation rates and access benchmarks; specifying funding as provided by the Legislature; creating s. 1004.097, F.S.; providing a short title; providing definitions; providing applicability; authorizing a public institution of higher education

126639 - h0423 strike.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM

Page 41 of 45



Amendment No. 1

1002 to create and enforce certain restrictions relating to  
1003 expressive activities on campus; providing a cause of  
1004 action for violations of the act; amending s. 1004.28,  
1005 F.S.; directing a state university board of trustees  
1006 to limit the services, activities, and expenses of its  
1007 direct-support organizations; requiring the chair of  
1008 the board of trustees to appoint at least one  
1009 representative to the board of directors and executive  
1010 committee of a university direct-support organization;  
1011 requiring the disclosure of certain financial  
1012 documents; creating s. 1004.6497, F.S.; establishing  
1013 the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program; providing  
1014 the purpose and intent; authorizing state university  
1015 investments in certain faculty retention, recruitment,  
1016 and recognition activities; specifying funding as  
1017 provided by the Legislature; requiring an annual  
1018 report to the Governor and the Legislature by a  
1019 specified date; creating s. 1004.6498, F.S.;

1020 establishing the State University Professional and  
1021 Graduate Degree Excellence Program; providing the  
1022 purpose; listing the quality improvement efforts that  
1023 may be used to elevate the prominence of state  
1024 university medicine, law, and graduate-level business  
1025 programs; specifying funding as provided by the  
1026 Legislature; requiring an annual report to the

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Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM





## Amendment No. 1

1027 Governor and the Legislature by a specified date;  
1028 amending s. 1008.30, F.S.; authorizing certain state  
1029 universities to continue to provide developmental  
1030 education instruction; amending s. 1009.22, F.S.;  
1031 removing the prohibition on the inclusion of a  
1032 technology fee in the funds for the Florida Bright  
1033 Futures Scholarship Program award; amending s.  
1034 1009.23, F.S.; removing the prohibition on the  
1035 inclusion of a technology fee in the funds for the  
1036 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program award;  
1037 amending s. 1009.24, F.S.; removing the prohibition on  
1038 the inclusion of a technology fee and a tuition  
1039 differential fee in the funds for the Florida Bright  
1040 Futures Scholarship Program award; amending s.  
1041 1009.53, F.S.; authorizing students to use certain  
1042 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards for  
1043 summer term enrollment beginning in specified years;  
1044 specifying funding as provided by the Legislature;  
1045 amending s. 1009.534, F.S.; specifying Florida  
1046 Academic Scholars award amounts to cover tuition,  
1047 fees, textbooks, and other educational expenses;  
1048 amending s. 1009.535, F.S.; specifying Florida  
1049 Medallion Scholars award amounts to cover specified  
1050 tuition and fees; amending s. 1009.701, F.S.; revising  
1051 the state-to-private match requirement for

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Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



## Amendment No. 1

1052 contributions to the First Generation Matching Grant  
1053 Program beginning in a specified fiscal year;  
1054 extending the program to include Florida College  
1055 System institution students; amending s. 1009.893,  
1056 F.S.; extending coverage of the Benacquisto  
1057 Scholarship Program to include tuition and fees for  
1058 qualified nonresident students; creating s. 1009.894,  
1059 F.S.; creating the Florida Farmworker Student  
1060 Scholarship Program; providing a purpose; requiring  
1061 the Department of Education to administer the  
1062 scholarship program; providing student eligibility  
1063 criteria; specifying award amounts and distributions;  
1064 amending s. 1009.98, F.S.; providing that certain  
1065 payments from the Florida Prepaid College Board to a  
1066 state university on behalf of a qualified beneficiary  
1067 may not exceed a specified amount; providing a  
1068 directive to the Division of Law Revision and  
1069 Information; requiring the Board of Governors, in  
1070 consultation with the state universities and by a  
1071 specified date, to submit recommendations on a process  
1072 to achieve a complete performance-based continuous  
1073 improvement funding model; requiring the Legislature  
1074 to review recommendations from an independent entity;  
1075 requiring such entity to consult with the Board of  
1076 Governors; requiring legislative action before

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Published On: 2/27/2018 10:31:20 AM



Amendment No. 1

1077 implementation of any recommendations; providing  
1078 appropriations; providing for the future repeal of ss.  
1079 1004.33 and 1004.34, F.S., relating to the University  
1080 of South Florida St. Petersburg and Manatee/Sarasota,  
1081 respectively; creating s. 1004.335, F.S.; requiring  
1082 the University of South Florida to adopt and submit a  
1083 plan to phase out the separate accreditations of the  
1084 University of South Florida St. Petersburg and the  
1085 University of South Florida Manatee/Sarasota by a  
1086 specified date; providing requirements for such plan;  
1087 providing that certain students may not be included in  
1088 specified graduation and retention rate calculations;  
1089 amending s. 1004.344; requiring the University of  
1090 South Florida's Florida Center for the Partnership for  
1091 Arts Integrated Teaching to be located at a certain  
1092 branch campus; providing appropriations; providing an  
1093 effective date.  
1094



Amendment No. 3

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

|                       |     |       |
|-----------------------|-----|-------|
| ADOPTED               | ___ | (Y/N) |
| ADOPTED AS AMENDED    | ___ | (Y/N) |
| ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION | ___ | (Y/N) |
| FAILED TO ADOPT       | ___ | (Y/N) |
| WITHDRAWN             | ___ | (Y/N) |
| OTHER                 | ___ |       |

*Adopted without  
objection  
2-27-18*

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Education Committee

2 Representative Ahern offered the following:

3  
4 **Amendment to Amendment (126639) by Representative Rodrigues**  
5 **(with title amendment)**

6 Remove lines 910-974 of the amendment and insert:

7 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1001.71, Florida  
8 Statutes, is amended to read:

9 1001.71 University boards of trustees; membership.—

10 (1) Pursuant to s. 7(c), Art. IX of the State  
11 Constitution, each local constituent university shall be  
12 administered by a university board of trustees comprised of 13  
13 members as follows: 6 citizen members appointed by the Governor  
14 subject to confirmation by the Senate; 5 citizen members  
15 appointed by the Board of Governors subject to confirmation by  
16 the Senate; the chair of the faculty senate or the equivalent;

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Published On: 2/27/2018 10:36:26 AM



Amendment No. 3

17 and the president of the student body of the university. The  
18 appointed members shall serve staggered 5-year terms. In order  
19 to achieve staggered terms, beginning July 1, 2003, of the  
20 initial appointments by the Governor, 2 members shall serve 2-  
21 year terms, 3 members shall serve 3-year terms, and 1 member  
22 shall serve a 5-year term and of the initial appointments by the  
23 Board of Governors, 2 members shall serve 2-year terms, 2  
24 members shall serve 3-year terms, and 1 member shall serve a 5-  
25 year term. There shall be no state residency requirement for  
26 university board members, but the Governor and the Board of  
27 Governors shall consider diversity and regional representation.  
28 For purposes of this subsection, regional representation shall  
29 include the chair of a campus board established pursuant to s.  
30 1004.341.

31 Section 2. Effective July 2, 2020, Section 1004.341,  
32 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

33 1004.341 University of South Florida campuses.

34 (1) The St. Petersburg and Sarasota/Manatee campuses of the  
35 University of South Florida are hereby established.

36 (a) The St. Petersburg campus of the University of South  
37 Florida shall be known as the "University of South Florida St.  
38 Petersburg" and shall include any college of the University of  
39 South Florida that is headquartered or primarily located in  
40 Pinellas County.

41 (b) The Sarasota/Manatee campus of the University of South

943889 - h0423 strike a1.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:36:26 AM



Amendment No. 3

42 Florida shall be known as the "University of South Florida  
43 Sarasota/Manatee" and shall include any college of the  
44 University of South Florida that is headquartered or primarily  
45 located in Sarasota or Manatee County.

46 (2) The University of South Florida St. Petersburg and  
47 University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee shall each have a  
48 Campus Board and a Regional Chancellor. The Chair of the Board  
49 of Trustees of the University of South Florida, based upon  
50 recommendations of the President of the University of South  
51 Florida, shall appoint:

52 (a) Seven residents of Pinellas County to serve 4-year  
53 staggered terms on the Campus Board of the University of South  
54 Florida St. Petersburg. A member of the Board of Trustees of the  
55 University of South Florida who resides in Pinellas County shall  
56 jointly serve as a member of the Board of Trustees and as chair  
57 of the campus board. The chair of the faculty senate or the  
58 equivalent and the president of the student body of the campus  
59 shall serve as ex officio members.

60 (b) Four residents of Manatee County and three residents of  
61 Sarasota County to serve 4-year staggered terms on the Campus  
62 Board of the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee. A  
63 member of the Board of Trustees of the University of South  
64 Florida who resides in Manatee or Sarasota County shall be  
65 selected by the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University  
66 of South Florida to jointly serve as a member of the Board of

943889 - h0423 strike a1.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:36:26 AM



Amendment No. 3

67 Trustees and as chair of the campus board. The chair of the  
68 faculty senate or the equivalent and the president of the  
69 student body of the campus shall serve as ex officio members.

70 (c) The Board of Trustees may reappoint a member to the  
71 campus board, other than the chair, for one additional term.

72 (3) Each campus board has the powers and duties provided  
73 by law, which include the authority to approve and submit an  
74 annual operating plan, budget and legislative budget request to  
75 the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida.

76 (4) The Board of Trustees shall publish and approve an  
77 annual operating budget for each campus and a report on the  
78 distribution of funds including, student tuition and fees,  
79 preeminence and performance based funding, provided to each  
80 campus.

81 (5) The Board of Trustees must publish on its website a  
82 biennial regional impact report, beginning July 1, 2021, which  
83 details the specific increased investments in university  
84 programs located in Pinellas, Manatee and Sarasota Counties. The  
85 report shall include, at a minimum, trend information related to  
86 access to new degree programs for students in those counties,  
87 any changes in student enrollment and outcomes at each campus  
88 located in those counties, increased research conducted and  
89 research infrastructure added in those counties, and any fixed  
90 capital outlay projects or property acquisitions planned or  
91 completed in those counties.

943889 - h0423 strike a1.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:36:26 AM



Amendment No. 3

92 (6) The faculty and students at each campus shall be  
93 represented in the academic and student governance structures of  
94 the University of South Florida as determined by the Board of  
95 Trustees.

96 Section 3. Section 1004.335, Florida Statutes, is created to  
97 read:

98 1004.335 Accreditation consolidation of University of  
99 South Florida branch campuses.-

100 (1) The University of South Florida Consolidation Planning  
101 Study and Implementation Task Force is established to develop  
102 recommendations to improve service to students by phasing out  
103 the separate accreditation of the University of South Florida  
104 St. Petersburg and the University of South Florida  
105 Sarasota/Manatee, which were conferred by the Southern  
106 Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges  
107 (SACSCOC) pursuant to ss.1004.33 and 1004.34, respectively.

108 (2) The task force shall consist of the following members:

109 (a) One member appointed by the chair of the Board of  
110 Governors who will serve as chair;

111 (b) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate;

112 (c) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
113 Representatives;

114 (d) Two members appointed by the chair of the University of  
115 South Florida board of trustees;





Amendment No. 3

116 (e) One member appointed by the chair of the campus board  
117 of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg;

118 (f) One member appointed by the chair of the campus board  
119 of the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee;

120 (g) The regional chancellor of the University of South  
121 Florida St. Petersburg;

122 (h) The regional chancellor of the University of South  
123 Florida Sarasota/Manatee;

124 (i) The president of the University of South Florida or his  
125 or her designee; and

126 (j) One student member appointed by the University of South  
127 Florida Alumni Association.

128 (3) The Board of Trustees shall assign personnel from each  
129 campus to staff the task force. The chair of the task force may  
130 consult experts in university mergers and consolidations to  
131 assist the task force in developing recommendations.

132 (4) No later than February 15, 2019, the task force must  
133 submit a report to the University of South Florida Board of  
134 Trustees, which includes, at a minimum, recommendations on the  
135 following:

136 (a) Identification of specific degrees in programs of  
137 strategic significance, including healthcare, science,  
138 technology, engineering, math, and other program priorities to  
139 be offered at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and  
140 the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee and the

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Published On: 2/27/2018 10:36:26 AM



Amendment No. 3

- 141 timeline for programs being developed and delivered on each  
142 campus;
- 143 (b) Maintaining the unique identity of each campus and an  
144 assessment of whether a separate educational mission is  
145 beneficial to the future of each campus;
- 146 (c) Maintaining faculty input from all campuses during the  
147 review and development of general education requirements to  
148 reflect the distinctive identity of each campus;
- 149 (d) Developing the research capacity at each campus;
- 150 (e) Equitable distribution of programs and resources to  
151 establish pathways to admission for all students who require  
152 bridge programming and financial aid; and
- 153 (f) Establishing budget transparency and accountability  
154 regarding the review and approval of student fees among  
155 campuses, including fee differentials and athletic fees to  
156 enable the identification of the equitable distribution of  
157 resources to each campus, including the University of South  
158 Florida Health.
- 159 (g) Developing and delivering integrated academic programs,  
160 student and faculty governance, and administrative services to  
161 better serve the students, faculty and staff at the University  
162 of South Florida College of Marine Science, the University of  
163 South Florida Sarasota/Manatee and the University of South  
164 Florida St. Petersburg.
- 165 (5) No later than March 15, 2019, the Board of Trustees of

943889 - h0423 strike a1.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:36:26 AM



Amendment No. 3

166 the University of South Florida, after considering the  
167 recommendations of the task force, must adopt and submit to the  
168 Board of Governors an implementation plan that:

169 (a) Establishes timelines for each step that is necessary  
170 to terminate the separate accreditation for each campus no later  
171 than June 30, 2020, so that there is no lapse in institutional  
172 accreditation for any campus during the phasing-out process.

173 (b) Minimizes disruption to students attending any  
174 University of South Florida campus so that the consolidation of  
175 SACSCOC accreditation does not impede a student's ability to  
176 graduate within 4 years of initial first-time-in-college  
177 enrollment.

178 (c) Requires that on or before July 1, 2020, the entirety  
179 of the University of South Florida, including all campuses and  
180 other component units of the university, to operate under a  
181 single institutional accreditation from the SACSCOC.

182 (d) Requires that on each regularly scheduled submission  
183 date subsequent to July 1, 2020, the University of South Florida  
184 shall report consolidated data for all of the university's  
185 campuses and students to the Integrated Postsecondary Education  
186 Data System and to the Board of Governors. The Board of  
187 Governors shall use the consolidated data for purposes of  
188 determining eligibility for funding pursuant to ss. 1001.7065  
189 and 1001.92.

190 (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 1001.7065 and

943889 - h0423 strike a1.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:36:26 AM



Amendment No. 3

191 1001.92 or any Board of Governors regulation to the contrary  
192 relating to the calculation of graduation rates and retention  
193 rates, a student who meets all of the following criteria may not  
194 be counted by the Board of Governors when calculating or  
195 confirming the graduation rate or the retention rate of the  
196 University of South Florida under those sections:

197 (a) The student was admitted to and initially enrolled  
198 before the spring 2020 semester as a first-time-in-college  
199 student at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg or the  
200 University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee.

201 (b) The student voluntarily disenrolled from all  
202 University of South Florida campuses without graduating before  
203 the date of termination of the separate SACSCOC accreditation of  
204 his or her admitting campus.

205 (7) This section expires July 1, 2020.

206 Section 4. Effective July 1, 2020, Sections 1004.33, and  
207 1004.34, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

208 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 1004.344, Florida  
209 Statutes, is amended to read:

210 1004.344 The Florida Center for the Partnerships for Arts  
211 Integrated Teaching.—

212 (1) The Florida Center for the Partnerships for Arts  
213 Integrated Teaching is created within the University of South  
214 Florida and shall be physically headquartered at the University  
215 of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee.

943889 - h0423 strike a1.docx

Published On: 2/27/2018 10:36:26 AM



Amendment No. 3

216 Section 6. Except as otherwise provided, this act shall  
217 take effect upon becoming law.

218

219

220

-----  
T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

222 Remove lines 1079-1094 of the amendment and insert:  
223 appropriations; amending s. 1001.71, F.S.; revising the  
224 membership of university boards of trustees; creating  
225 s. 1004.341, F.S.; establishing University of South  
226 Florida campuses; requiring campus boards and regional  
227 chancellors for the University of South Florida St.  
228 Petersburg and the University of South Florida  
229 Sarasota/Manatee; establishing membership requirements  
230 for the campus boards of the University of South  
231 Florida St. Petersburg and the University of South  
232 Florida Sarasota/Manatee; establishing powers and  
233 duties for campus boards; providing budget and  
234 reporting requirements for the University of South  
235 Florida Board of Trustees; requiring faculty and  
236 student representation from each campus in the academic  
237 and student government structures of the University of  
238 South Florida; creating s. 1004.335, F.S.; requiring  
239 the University of South Florida to adopt and submit a  
240 plan to phase out the separate accreditations of the

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Published On: 2/27/2018 10:36:26 AM



Amendment No. 3

241 University of South Florida St. Petersburg and the  
242 University of South Florida Manatee/Sarasota by a  
243 specified date; providing requirements for such plan;  
244 providing that certain students may not be included in  
245 specified graduation and retention rate calculations;  
246 providing for the future repeal of ss. 1004.33 and  
247 1004.34, F.S., relating to the University of South  
248 Florida St. Petersburg and Sarasota/Manatee,  
249 respectively; amending s. 1004.344; requiring the  
250 University of South Florida's Florida Center for the  
251 Partnership for Arts Integrated Teaching to be located  
252 at a certain branch campus; providing an effective  
253 date.



Amendment No.

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

|                       |     |       |
|-----------------------|-----|-------|
| ADOPTED               | ___ | (Y/N) |
| ADOPTED AS AMENDED    | ___ | (Y/N) |
| ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION | ___ | (Y/N) |
| FAILED TO ADOPT       | ___ | (Y/N) |
| WITHDRAWN             | ___ | (Y/N) |
| OTHER                 | ___ |       |

*unfavorable  
2.27.18*

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Education Committee

2 Representative Diamond offered the following:

3

4 **Substitute Amendment for Amendment (126639) by**  
5 **Representative Rodrigues**

6 Remove lines 910-964 and insert:

7 (1) The University of South Florida shall establish a study  
8 committee to examine the potential impact of phasing out the  
9 separate accreditation of the University of South Florida St.  
10 Petersburg campus and the University of South Florida  
11 Sarasota/Manatee campus, which were conferred by the Southern  
12 Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges  
13 (SACSCOC) pursuant to ss. 1004.33 and 100.34, respectively.

14 (2) The study committee shall consist of the following  
15 members:



Amendment No.

16 (a) One representative from the University of South Florida  
17 board of trustees;

18 (b) One representative from the campus board of the  
19 University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus;

20 (c) One representative from the campus board of the  
21 University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee campus;

22 (d) One senior administrator from each campus;

23 (e) One faculty member from each campus selected by each  
24 campus's faculty senate;

25 (f) One student from each campus selected by each campus's  
26 student government association;

27 (g) One representative from the Greater Tampa Chamber of  
28 Commerce;

29 (h) One representative from the St. Petersburg Chamber of  
30 Commerce;

31 (i) One representative from the St. Petersburg Downtown  
32 Partnership;

33 (j) One representative from the Manatee Chamber of  
34 Commerce;

35 (k) One representative from the Greater Sarasota Chamber of  
36 Commerce;

37 (l) One representative from St. Petersburg College; and

38 (m) One representative from the State College of Florida,  
39 Manatee-Sarasota.





Amendment No.

40       (3) The study committee shall hold at least one public  
41 meeting on each campus to allow for public input on the  
42 potential impact of consolidating the accreditation of all  
43 University of South Florida campuses under one single  
44 institutional accreditation. No later than February 15, 2019,  
45 the study committee must submit a report to the President of the  
46 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which  
47 addresses the following:

48       (a) The potential impact of accreditation consolidation on  
49 academic programs offered at each campus;

50       (b) The potential impact of accreditation consolidation on  
51 admissions requirements and student access to enrollment at  
52 various campuses;

53       (c) The impact of accreditation consolidation on faculty  
54 and staff credentialed on each campus;

55       (d) An assessment by the business community in the Tampa  
56 Bay region of how accreditation consolidation may impact the  
57 academic programming needed by employers; and

58       (e) The support needed for each campus to achieve and  
59 maintain the metrics required for preeminent state research  
60 university status pursuant to s. 1001.7065.

61       (4) The study committee's report shall include a  
62 recommendation regarding whether or not accreditation  
63 consolidation is in the best interests of the students, faculty  
64 and the communities served by the University of South Florida

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Published On: 2/27/2018 11:31:38 AM



Amendment No.

65 St. Petersburg, and the University of South Florida  
66 Sarasota/Manatee. If the study committee recommends that the  
67 University should proceed with accreditation consolidation, the  
68 study committee shall make additional recommendations, including  
69 but not limited to:

70 (a) Proposed changes to the composition of the University  
71 of South Florida Board of Trustees to ensure representation of  
72 the counties served by the three campuses;

73 (b) Proposed changes to the University budget process to  
74 provide for additional transparency and input from each campus  
75 to ensure that University funds are appropriately and equitably  
76 allocated; and

77 (c) Proposed changes to the governance structure on each of  
78 the campuses to ensure the successful implementation of the  
79 accreditation consolidation and governance of each campus going  
80 forward.

81 (5) This section expires February 16, 2019.



Amendment No.

*Withdrawn  
Prior to Consideration  
2-27-18*

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

- ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)
- ADOPTED AS AMENDED \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)
- ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)
- FAILED TO ADOPT \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)
- WITHDRAWN \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)
- OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Education Committee  
 2 Representative Diamond offered the following:

**Amendment**

Remove lines 1255-1303 and insert:

6 (1) The University of South Florida shall establish a study  
 7 committee to examine the potential impact of phasing out the  
 8 separate accreditation of the University of South Florida St.  
 9 Petersburg campus and the University of South Florida  
 10 Sarasota/Manatee campus, which were conferred by the Southern  
 11 Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges  
 12 (SACSCOC) pursuant to ss. 1004.33 and 100.34, respectively.

13 (2) The study committee shall consist of the following  
 14 members:

15 (a) One representative from the University of South Florida  
 16 board of trustees;



Amendment No.

- 17        (b) One representative from the campus board of the  
18 University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus;
- 19        (c) One representative from the campus board of the  
20 University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee campus;
- 21        (d) One senior administrator from each campus;
- 22        (e) One faculty member from each campus selected by each  
23 campus's faculty senate;
- 24        (f) One student from each campus selected by each campus's  
25 student government association;
- 26        (g) One representative from the Greater Tampa Chamber of  
27 Commerce;
- 28        (h) One representative from the St. Petersburg Chamber of  
29 Commerce;
- 30        (i) One representative from the St. Petersburg Downtown  
31 Partnership;
- 32        (j) One representative from the Manatee Chamber of  
33 Commerce;
- 34        (k) One representative from the Greater Sarasota Chamber of  
35 Commerce;
- 36        (l) One representative from St. Petersburg College; and  
37        (m) One representative from the State College of Florida,  
38 Manatee-Sarasota.
- 39        (3) The study committee shall hold at least one public  
40 meeting on each campus to allow for public input on the  
41 potential impact of consolidating the accreditation of all



Amendment No.

42 University of South Florida campuses under one single  
43 institutional accreditation. No later than February 15, 2019,  
44 the study committee must submit a report to the President of the  
45 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which  
46 addresses the following:

47 (a) The potential impact of accreditation consolidation on  
48 academic programs offered at each campus;

49 (b) The potential impact of accreditation consolidation on  
50 admissions requirements and student access to enrollment at  
51 various campuses;

52 (c) The impact of accreditation consolidation on faculty  
53 and staff credentialed on each campus;

54 (d) An assessment by the business community in the Tampa  
55 Bay region of how accreditation consolidation may impact the  
56 academic programming needed by employers; and

57 (e) The support needed for each campus to achieve and  
58 maintain the metrics required for preeminent state research  
59 university status pursuant to s. 1001.7065.

60 (4) The study committee's report shall include a  
61 recommendation regarding whether or not accreditation  
62 consolidation is in the best interests of the students, faculty  
63 and the communities served by the University of South Florida  
64 St. Petersburg, and the University of South Florida  
65 Sarasota/Manatee. If the study committee recommends that the  
66 University should proceed with accreditation consolidation, the

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Published On: 2/27/2018 10:39:47 AM



Amendment No.

67 study committee shall make additional recommendations, including  
68 but not limited to:

69 (a) Proposed changes to the composition of the University  
70 of South Florida Board of Trustees to ensure representation of  
71 the counties served by the three campuses;

72 (b) Proposed changes to the University budget process to  
73 provide for additional transparency and input from each campus  
74 to ensure that University funds are appropriately and equitably  
75 allocated; and

76 (c) Proposed changes to the governance structure on each of  
77 the campuses to ensure the successful implementation of the  
78 accreditation consolidation and governance of each campus going  
79 forward.

80 (5) This section expires February 16, 2019.

# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Education Committee

2/27/2018 1:30PM

Location: Reed Hall (102 HOB)

PCS for HB 495 : Education

Favorable

|                        | Yea                   | Nay                  | No Vote | Absentee<br>Yea | Absentee<br>Nay |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Larry Ahern            | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Bruce Antone           | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Robert Asencio         | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Kimberly Daniels       | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Manny Diaz, Jr.        | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Byron Donalds          | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Jay Fant               |                       |                      | X       |                 |                 |
| Jason Fischer          |                       |                      | X       |                 |                 |
| Margaret Good          | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Shevrin Jones          |                       |                      | X       |                 |                 |
| Chris Latvala          | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Larry Lee, Jr.         | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Amber Mariano          | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Rene Plasencia         | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Mel Ponder             | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Elizabeth Porter       | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Jake Raburn            | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Barrington Russell     | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Charlie Stone          | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Jennifer Sullivan      | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Michael Bileca (Chair) | X                     |                      |         |                 |                 |
|                        | <b>Total Yeas: 18</b> | <b>Total Nays: 0</b> |         |                 |                 |

Committee meeting was reported out: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:19PM

# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Education Committee

2/27/2018 1:30PM

**Location:** Reed Hall (102 HOB)

**CS/HB 1213 : Computer Science Instruction**

Favorable

|                        | Yea | Nay                  | No Vote | Absentee<br>Yea | Absentee<br>Nay |
|------------------------|-----|----------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Larry Ahern            | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Bruce Antone           | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Robert Asencio         | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Kimberly Daniels       | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Manny Diaz, Jr.        | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Byron Donalds          | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Jay Fant               |     |                      | X       |                 |                 |
| Jason Fischer          | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Margaret Good          | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Shevrin Jones          |     |                      | X       |                 |                 |
| Chris Latvala          | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Larry Lee, Jr.         | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Amber Mariano          | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Rene Plasencia         | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Mel Ponder             | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Elizabeth Porter       | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Jake Raburn            | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Barrington Russell     | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Charlie Stone          | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Jennifer Sullivan      | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| Michael Bileca (Chair) | X   |                      |         |                 |                 |
| <b>Total Yeas: 19</b>  |     | <b>Total Nays: 0</b> |         |                 |                 |

**Appearances:**

Taylor, James (Lobbyist) - Waive In Support  
 Florida Technology Council  
 Executive Director  
 115 E. Park Ave.  
 Tallahassee FL  
 Phone: (407) 718-2780

Mosteller, James (Lobbyist) - Waive In Support  
 Foundation for Florida's Future  
 215 South Monroe Street 420  
 Tallahassee FL  
 Phone: (850) 727-3712

Bayliss, Slater (Lobbyist) - Waive In Support  
 TechNet  
 204 S Monroe St Ste 602  
 Tallahassee FL 32301  
 Phone: (850) 222-8900

Committee meeting was reported out: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:19PM



# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Education Committee

2/27/2018 1:30PM

**Location:** Reed Hall (102 HOB)

**CS/HB 1213 : Computer Science Instruction (continued)**

**Appearances: (continued)**

Bracy, Carol (Lobbyist) - Waive In Support

Amazon.com, Inc.

201 East Park Avenue 5th Floor

Tallahassee FL

Phone: (850) 577-0444

Committee meeting was reported out: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:19PM



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# **Education Committee**

**Tuesday, February 27, 2018**

**1:30 PM**

**Reed Hall**

## **Action Packet Addendum**



# PINELLAS COUNTY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

January 29, 2018

Representative Ben Diamond  
1402 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative Diamond:

As the Chair of the Pinellas County Economic Development Council, I would like to express the concerns of our business community regarding the accreditation consolidation of the University of South Florida campuses.

Beginning in the late 1990s, local business groups, Florida lawmakers and members of the community set out to allow University of South Florida St. Petersburg to become a separately accredited university within the University of South Florida system. The University of South Florida St. Petersburg was awarded separate accreditation from the Southern Association of College and Schools after years of thoughtful discussion and planning.

While we appreciate the concerted effort of local delegation members to reach out to the Commission and explain the reasoning behind the consolidation of University of South Florida campuses, there simply has not been adequate time to properly evaluate and discuss the proposed legislation. There may be advantages to consolidation, such as individual campuses achieving preeminent status, and the benefits that come with that elite distinction. However, there may also be disadvantages, such as loss of control over decisions related to course, major, degree, and program offerings, and capital improvement priorities. These issues are of particular interest and concern to our industrial base.

It is with this in mind that I ask, on behalf of the Pinellas County Economic Development Council that the portion of CS/HB 423 pertaining to accreditation of the University of South Florida campuses be withdrawn from consideration at this time.

PINELLAS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

13805 58th Street North, Suite 1-200 - Clearwater, FL 33760 • (727) 464-7332 • (888) 759-JOBS • FAX (727) 464-7053

[www.PCED.org](http://www.PCED.org)

We encourage opening a continuing dialogue between the Legislature, University faculty, students, local leaders, community partners and our business community through town halls and public information sessions over the next year. At that time, we will be better suited to move forward with thoughtful legislation that advances the goal we all share, to continue to provide all Floridians with access to world class higher education institutions.

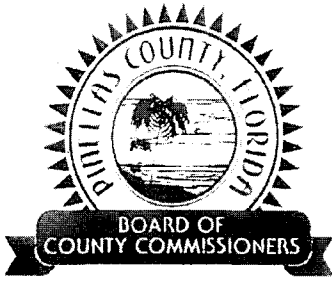
Thank you for your service, and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth T. Welch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

KENNETH T. WELCH, Chairman  
Pinellas County Economic Development Council

CC: Representative Ray Wesley Rodrigues  
Pinellas County State Legislative Delegation  
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners  
Mark Woodard, Pinellas County Administrator  
Jewel White, Pinellas County Attorney  
Mike Meidel, Pinellas County Economic Development Director



**KENNETH T. WELCH**  
CHAIRMAN

# PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PHONE (727) 464-3614 • FAX (727) 464-3022 • 315 COURT STREET • CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756  
[www.pinellascounty.org](http://www.pinellascounty.org) • [kwelch@pinellascounty.org](mailto:kwelch@pinellascounty.org)

January 25, 2018

Representative Ben Diamond  
1402 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative Diamond:

On behalf of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, I am writing to express our concerns regarding the accreditation consolidation of University of South Florida branch campuses.

Beginning in the late 1990s, Florida lawmakers, members of the community, and local business groups set out to allow University of South Florida St. Petersburg to become a separately accredited university within the University of South Florida system. Only after years of thoughtful discussion and planning, was the University of South Florida St. Petersburg awarded separate accreditation from the Southern Association of College and Schools.

While we appreciate the concerted effort of local delegation members to reach out to the Commission and explain the reasoning behind the consolidation of University of South Florida campuses, there simply has not been adequate time to properly evaluate and discuss the proposed legislation. There may be advantages to consolidation, such as satellite campuses achieving preeminent status, and the benefits that come with that elite distinction. However, there may also be disadvantages, such as loss of control over decisions related to course, major, degree, and program offerings, and capital improvement priorities.

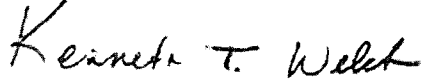
It is with this in mind that I ask, on behalf of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, that the portion of CS/HB 423 pertaining to accreditation of University of South Florida branch campuses be withdrawn from consideration at this time.

We encourage open dialogue between the Legislature, University faculty, students, local leaders, and community partners through town halls and public information sessions over the next year. At that time, we will be better suited to move forward with thoughtful legislation that advances the goal we all share, to continue to provide all Floridians with access to world class higher education institutions.



Thank you for your service, and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth T. Welch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

KENNETH T. WELCH, Chairman  
Pinellas Board of County Commissioners

CC: Representative Ray Wesley Rodrigues  
Pinellas County State Legislative Delegation  
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners  
Mark Woodard, Pinellas County Administrator  
Jewel White, Pinellas County Attorney



**ST. PETERSBURG**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

The Chamber Building  
100 Second Ave. N., Suite 150  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
(727) 821-4069  
stpete.com

January 25, 2018

Dear President Negrón, Speaker Corcoran, and Members of the Florida Legislature,

Thank you for your continued leadership of our great State of Florida. Our state government continues to make amazing progress in efforts to ensure a strong business climate and an enviable quality of life for all who live, work or visit.

We write today to ask you to hit "PAUSE" on the idea being proposed for the consolidation of University of South Florida (USF)-St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota/Manatee into USF-Tampa

While this newly formed idea may indeed provide benefits to our students, our region and our state - no one has provided or has conducted any due diligence, process or study to understand the impacts to our local community, regional economy and the students served now and in the future. It appears as if this idea has actually surprised our university leaders, our campus leaders, our students and our community leaders.

The St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce requests a formal study of this proposal with inputs from those throughout our region and education system prior to moving this forward. We are concerned with the pace of taking this from an idea to a policy without any public process or due diligence.

As most agree, St. Petersburg has become an amazing story of renaissance and growth for Florida. Our success (as most) comes from a combination of good fortune and great planning. Our community's economic development strategy "Grow Smarter" was created in 2014 and has been adopted and worked by our city government, our business and community agencies, and our educational partners at every level. We know of no other city that has created a holistic strategy bringing together all the assets of the community to ensure broad based economic growth. USF and USFSP both play unique and instrumental roles in this plan as we enhance our place as one of Florida's top destinations for job seekers and job creators.

I hope you'll understand our concern is not with USF leadership, our elected leadership, or the idea itself. Our concern is with the lack of process, facts or evidence to prove this indeed is the right direction for our community and our economic development strategies. Every stakeholder group deserves to know more prior to making this major change to the way we have envisioned our future.

We appreciate your consideration of our request to ensure a study is commissioned in this session and we look forward to working together to bring back to you in next year's session the facts, impacts and opportunities of this idea so everyone can be certain it will indeed provide the best system for our students, city, region and economic development strategies.

Sincerely,

Chris Steinocher, President and CEO

Jim Donatelli, Chairman of the Board

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONTINUING SEPARATE ACCREDITATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG ("USF ST. PETERSBURG"); REQUESTING THAT LANGUAGE BRINGING USF ST. PETERSBURG BACK UNDER THE ACCREDITATION OF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA TAMPA ("USF TAMPA") BE REMOVED FROM HB 423; INSTRUCTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT THIS RESOLUTION TO CERTAIN PERSONS AND ENTITIES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the University of South Florida is currently considered to be a system which includes three separately accredited institutions: USF Tampa, USF St. Petersburg, and USF Sarasota-Manatee; and

WHEREAS, USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee are operated and maintained as separate organizational and budget entities of USF and both campuses obtain separate accreditation; and

WHEREAS, USF St. Petersburg is a key economic driver for the City of St. Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, dramatic improvements to the USF St. Petersburg campus have occurred over the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, proposed legislation has been added to HB 423 filed for consideration during the 2018 session of the Florida Legislature which proposes to phase out the separate accreditation of USF St. Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, concerns arise on the continued success of the USF St. Petersburg campus if all key decisions on programs, funding, and staffing are made in Tampa; and

WHEREAS, questions about enrollment and minority access for students at a local university campus if the same admission criteria were used statewide need to be addressed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida that City Council urges the Florida Legislature that the language bringing USF St. Petersburg back under the accreditation of USF Tampa needs to be removed from HB 423.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a study should be funded and performed to ensure the most successful future for current and future USF St. Petersburg students, faculty, and potential impacts to our local community and our regional economy.

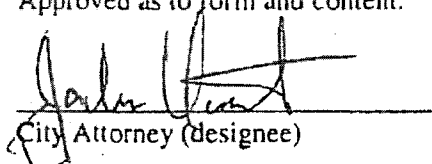
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that changes to governance need to be made to increase membership on the USF Board of Trustees with trustees who reside in St. Petersburg.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council hereby instructs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Senate President, the House Speaker and the Pinellas County Delegation.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Approved as to form and content:



City Attorney (designee)

00359588

D

January 30, 2018

Representative Ben Diamond  
1402 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative Diamond:

The Dali Museum welcomes over 400,000 visitors to St. Petersburg, driving \$150,000,000 in spending annually. In recent years we have operated joint programs with USFSP tailored to the unique offerings of the campus and the special richness of our collection, the most important collection of a single artist in America.

Having enjoyed a productive collaboration with USFSP, we are alarmed at the prospect of its loss of autonomy. We urge a careful study of the impact of a consolidation with the Tampa campus be undertaken before any determination is made.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Hank Hine

Director

One Dali Boulevard  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701  
727 823 3767

THE DALI.ORG MUSEUM

A

CHARLIE CRIST

12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

www.crist.house.gov

427 DANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5961

696 1ST AVENUE NORTH, SUITE 203  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701  
(727) 318-6770

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0913

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND  
CONSUMER CREDIT

MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND  
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES

SPACE  
ENVIRONMENT

January 19, 2018

The Honorable Joe Negron  
President  
Florida Senate

The Honorable Richard Corcoran  
Speaker  
Florida House of Representatives

Dear President Negron and Speaker Corcoran,

I write to raise serious concerns with efforts underway in the Florida Legislature to remove the independent accreditation of University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

As you know, USFSP worked for many years in its quest for autonomy, achieving this status in 2006. Since that time, USFSP's enrollment, performance, and fundraising have steadily increased and the institution is on course to become a nationally recognized university in its own right. Further, an independent USFSP is a major point of pride for USFSP alumni, the student body, and the St. Petersburg community.

I am deeply concerned with the proposal to revoke USFSP's autonomy. The lack of public input or rigorous study for such a far-reaching, disruptive proposal is also very troubling. At minimum, this issue requires greater analysis, and USFSP students, faculty, administrators and the St. Petersburg community deserve adequate opportunity to have their voices heard on this issue. Unless or until that occurs, I request that further consideration of any proposal affecting USFSP's autonomy be put on hold.

Thank you for your consideration, and your continued service to the State of Florida.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist  
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN

CC:  
Representative Larry Ahern  
Chair  
Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Representative Mel Ponder  
Vice Chair  
Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Representative Larry Lee, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee