

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 12-104

(Creation of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on State Higher Education Reform)

WHEREAS, in 2002, the citizens of Florida amended the State's Constitution to both establish the Board of Governors and authorize it to operate, regulate, control, and manage the State University System, subject to the Legislature's power to appropriate for the expenditure of funds; and

WHEREAS, the amendment also established local Boards of Trustees to administer each university, according to powers and duties established by the Board of Governors; and

WHEREAS, the State University System now enrolls more than 324,000 students and state universities collectively offer nearly 1,800 degree programs at the baccalaureate, graduate, and professional levels and annually award over 73,000 degrees at all levels; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Legislature entered into a Governance Agreement with the Board of Governors on March 24, 2010, to further clarify respective roles and authority in meeting Constitutional responsibilities in the governance and operations of the State University System; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors completed its 2012-2025 Strategic Plan on November 10, 2011 in anticipation of increased demand for degree production and quality preparation of Florida's students for success as engaged citizens and contributors to Florida's evolving economy; and

WHEREAS, the Higher Education Coordinating Council, established during the 2010 Legislative session, presented its recommendations on December 15, 2011, related to the collaboration on delivery of higher education in Florida among the State University System, the Florida College System, Independent Colleges and Universities in Florida, as well as for-profit colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, the State University System's role in creating and transferring knowledge through research, teaching, and service is of paramount importance to the transition of the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of Florida's residents that a Blue Ribbon Task Force be created to assess recent progress and evaluate the remaining challenges and opportunities to be addressed in pursuit of the optimal State University System structure and performance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the Constitution of the State of Florida, do hereby promulgate the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1.

The Blue Ribbon Task Force on State Higher Education Reform (hereinafter referred to as the "Task Force") is hereby created. The vision of the Task Force shall be to advance the State University System's Constitutional charge to operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the management of the whole university system. The mission of the Task Force will be to review and make recommendations to the Governor and state policy makers to fulfill this vision.

Section 2.

The responsibilities of the Task Force shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Catalog and consolidate the recommendations of the various efforts addressing Florida's higher education system with respect to the State University System;
- b. Assess strengths and weaknesses of the State University System's governance model related to its Constitutional charge;
- c. Analyze the ability of state universities to contribute to the State University System's 2012-2025 strategic plan;
- d. Recommend strategies, such as incentive systems and governance improvements, to encourage cooperation between institutions leading to reduced duplication and improved efficiencies;
- e. Recommend amendments to statutes and Board of Governors regulations necessary to improve accountability and transparency on the part of state universities to the Board of Governors and the Board of Governors to the Legislature and Governor; and
- f. Conduct a review and analysis of efforts to achieve national preeminence and academic and research excellence by Florida universities, including elements that may be considered for future legislation to advance higher education.

Section 3.

The Task Force shall, no later than November 15, 2012, provide a written report to the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House detailing assessments and recommendations consistent with the responsibilities above.

Section 4.

The Task Force shall consist of seven members. One member shall be appointed by the Governor, two members shall be appointed by the Senate President, two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House, and two members shall be appointed by the Chair of the Board of Governors. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

The Governor's appointee shall serve as the Chair of the Task Force. The Governor may suspend or remove any member of the Task Force with or without cause, and the Governor may fill any vacancy that may arise. The Task Force shall be located within the Executive Office of the Governor. The Task Force shall meet as needed and when called by the Chair. A majority of the Task Force's current members shall constitute a quorum. A quorum must be met in order for the Task Force to vote on any proposed action or recommendation. The Task Force shall function according to the guidelines set form by the Robert's Rules of Order, unless other procedural guidelines are adopted by the Task Force.

Section 5.

The Task Force is authorized to call upon any State agency, department, division, or office to supply data, reports, or other information the Task Force deems reasonably necessary to achieve its objectives. Each agency, department, division, or office of the State under the purview of the Governor is authorized and directed, and all other agencies are requested, to cooperate with the Task Force and provide it with such information, personnel, and assistance as necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Executive Order. The Board of Governors and universities within the State University System are encouraged to provide the Task Force with assistance in performing research and support necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Task Force.

Section 6.

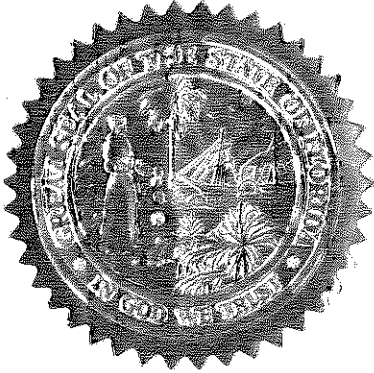
Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation, but may receive per diem and travel expenses to the extent allowed by Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, and to the extent that funds are available. Members of the Task Force who are public officers and employees of state agencies may be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses by their respective agencies. All other members of the Task Force may be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses by the Executive Office of the Governor.

Section 7.

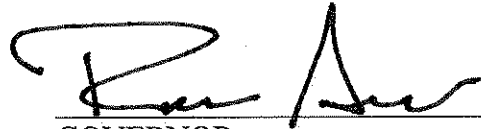
The meetings of the Task Force shall be noticed and open to the public, and shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 286, Florida Statutes. Florida's public records law, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, shall apply.

Section 8.

The Task Force shall continue in existence until May 4, 2013.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 4th day of May, 2012.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

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TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA