



**Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2012, 2:30 PM
Beacon Council
80 SW 8th Street
Miami, FL 33130**

Attendees: Ivan Baines, Dennis Gallon, Divina Grossman, Todd Holt, Gary S. Margules, Rolando Montoya, Frank Nero, Roy Pocknee, Mark Rosenberg, Shawn Rowan, Mary Jane Saunders, Ronald Toll

Absent: David Armstrong, Andrew Duffell, Linda Howdysshell, Jonathan Lord, Ed Massey, Harry Orf, Marcelo Radice, Elvis Rojas, Kelly Smallridge, Robert Swindell

Meeting commenced at 2:30 p.m. on January 23, 2012.

I. Welcome

President Nero and Dr. Grossman welcomed everyone.

II. New Business – Florida ExpertNet

Dr. Grossman introduced Rebecca Augustyniak, Project Director of Florida ExpertNet and Director for Information Management and Educational Services at Florida State University. Ms. Augustyniak explained the Clearinghouse for Applied Research and Public Service established Florida ExpertNet in 1999 and stated this portal serves as a tool to connect the business industry, government agencies, non-profit and other community-based organizations with a statewide interface of research expertise. The Clearinghouse for Applied Research and Public Service is one of the seven clearinghouses and information centers developed by the Center for Information Management and Educational Services at Florida State University. Florida ExpertNet was revised in 2006 to expand the focus and emphasize economic development. Ms. Augustyniak further explained that Florida ExpertNet is a statewide interface of applied research expertise and resources found in Florida's universities. The purpose of Florida ExpertNet is to connect researchers and organizations with available resources in the state and to provide a unified knowledge base of applied research in the State University System (SUS). The academic institutions include all public universities in Florida as well as some private academic institutions like the University of Miami and Florida Institute of Technology. Ms. Augustyniak explained the data is collected from Offices of Research at participating academic



institutions in spreadsheet and XML formats. In addition, Ms. Augustyniak mentioned that Florida ExpertNet operates the online reporting system for the Board of Governors; this assists with capturing and auditing updated data as Centers and Institutes from member institutions are required to input information annually. She noted that in the last year the portal has received nearly 1,300 returning visitors and visitors from over 105 countries and territories including Canada, China, and India.

Key-features of Florida ExpertNet include Leading-Edge Research, News, Experts, Funded Projects, Centers and Institutes, Technology, Licensing Opportunities and a Speakers Bureau. Ms. Augustyniak noted that Experts are the principal investigators on funded external grants. She also added that the Speakers Bureau consists of registered speakers from a variety of sectors (i.e. Behavioral Sciences, Engineering, Life Sciences); most of these speakers come at little or no cost.

Ms. Augustyniak noted Florida ExpertNet is working to make the interface more user friendly and arrange the data around industry clusters. Florida ExpertNet will also include an inventory of higher education programs offered by academic institutions; this information is scheduled to be released in the next two weeks. Ms. Augustyniak noted the Florida ExpertNet team is creating a comprehensive marketing campaign to promote this portal. Ms. Augustyniak continued the presentation by exploring the Florida ExpertNet webpage and highlighting different website features. She noted how the homepage contains links to universities' Sponsored Research Offices, Frequently Asked Questions and a search engine that results in identifying information in the following categories: Experts, Funded Projects, Centers and Institutes, Licensing Opportunities, and Speakers. She showed the group how a comprehensive profile of Experts is provided, when searching through the Experts category. The Experts profile contains the person's contact information, research terms, projects, network, degrees and honors, professional activities, and publications.

In response to President Rosenberg's question about the amount of views on Florida ExpertNet, Ms. Augustyniak stated the portal receives approximately 88,000 views a year. President Rosenberg also asked if a single industry cluster was searched more frequently than others as well as if any additional patterns or trends around specific geography or interest had emerged. Ms. Augustyniak stated that the data is not available at this time but she will compile the information and provide to the group. In response to President Saunders' question of who is utilizing the portal (investigator to investigator, investigator to company), Ms. Augustyniak explained that Florida ExpertNet is an open access public portal available at no cost, making it impossible to capture this information. This information would only be available if Florida ExpertNet prompted users for a username and password, providing a mechanism to track. In reference to the scope of research and where it is being captured, Dr. Baines asked if there has been any discussion to include private research institutions to the portal, and if so, would there



be any need to differentiate between non-degree granting (Max Planck Florida Institute) and degree granting (Scripps Florida) institutions. Ms. Augustyniak stated these organizations are currently not included. She noted the great work being done around the state; Florida ExpertNet is open to exploring ways to mutually leverage this work. President Nero added that the more information available for public consumption the better, as the information can be used as a foundation for economic development initiatives.

Dr. Margules discussed collecting and auditing data periodically for the shared technology platform and questioned who will be responsible for maintaining the data.

Dr. Baines stated his interest in Florida ExpertNet and its structure as it matches the model of the shared technology platform LSSF members are trying to establish. He stated that a more technical discussion is needed to determine if it is possible to build the shared technology portal based on Florida ExpertNet's platform. Ms. Augustyniak expressed her interest in partnering with LSSF.

- c. Shared Technology and Communication Portal** – Dr. Grossman asked Dr. Baines to update the group on the shared technology platform as it was relevant to what was presented by Ms. Augustyniak. Dr. Baines explained to the Executive Committee that the Vice Presidents of Research (VPs) and Chief Information Officers (CIOs) from participating institutions engaged in a meeting to discuss the technical structure of the portal. He noted the group viewed the content as a distinct component separate from the design of an application database, each with challenges. Dr. Baines mentioned that he presented several portals as models, such as the Dresden-concept Technology Platform in Germany, and mentioned how some members felt existing resources like Community of Science may satisfy our needs. Dr. Baines countered that each site has its own niche and are not the model we are seeking as LSSF would be more regionally driven. The LSSF shared technology platform is not necessarily about finding co-researchers or collaboration but could be as simple as access to hours on equipment. This application found in the portal will drive competitiveness, allowing preliminary data to be generated and eventually lead to large investments. He stated the next step is for CIOs to look at the technical aspects of developing the portal and search engine, benchmarking best practices for what already exists and identifying ways to modify portals for our use. Dr. Baines suggested looking beyond technical aspects to the administrative, financial, and legal models that need to be established to permit sharing of resources, information, costs, and technology across institutes. He outlined two critical issues that may result from developing the portal: 1) the liability issue associated with service delivery, and 2) competition from service providers. He predicted that other service providers may believe LSSF to have a competitive advantage as state dollars



often subsidize institutions of higher education. Dr. Baines explained these issues will be addressed in a smaller subcommittee led by himself and Dr. Andres Gil, Vice President of Research at FIU. Dr. Grossman noted the VPs of Research will identify the information that exists internally within their institution and meet with the five CIOs to identify a way the information can be aggregated. Dr. Baines stated he will be losing his Co-chair, Dr. Harry Orf, as he will be relocating to Boston. Dr. Grossman suggested Dr. Gil to be the Co-chair for the Shared Communication Portal Subcommittee.

Dr. Margules posed the issue of instrument use, specifically should the institution housing the instrument require researcher disclosure of intended purpose prior to equipment use. He noted this originated with the concern that an institution could benefit from or be held liable for the products of instrument use. Dr. Baines added research tools should be non-proprietary enabling technology to be non-exclusive.

In response to President Rosenberg's question about the timeframe for creating the Shared Communication Portal, Dr. Grossman stated it will get created within the year as each VPs of Research need to gather information from their institutions, and consult with their General Counsel and Chief Financial Officers to determine the financial and legal aspects of the portal.

III. Old Business – Update on LSSF Webpage Launch

Dr. Grossman referred to the webpage content and explained this information will be the preliminary interface for the shared technology portal as it will contain the asset map information that has already been collected by the FIU Office of Engagement. The asset map includes educational programs in life sciences as well as the number of graduates, both by institution and in aggregate from. In addition, the asset map includes research capabilities, research parks, research institutes, venture capital companies, and life science corporations. Dr. Grossman informed the group that the meeting minutes will also be posted on the website; once the website is published, the link will be sent to the members so they can download the meeting minutes.

IV. Review of Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of the Executive Committee call on December 16, 2011 were reviewed and approved. President Rosenberg stated that all documents, including minutes, should include the Life Sciences South Florida logo moving forward.



V. Subcommittee Reports

- a) **Talent Recruitment** – Dr. Grossman stated the group is working on scheduling a conference call with Rick Beasley, Executive Director of South Florida Workforce, for potential funding opportunities for a region-wide internship program for students.

- b) **Asset Map and Cluster Analysis** – Dr. Baines contacted Booz Allen Hamilton for a quote for the creation of an asset map but they have been unresponsive. President Nero suggested contacting Avalanche Consulting, a boutique firm that created the cluster analysis for the Beacon Council’s One Community One Goal (OCOG) Industry Study for Miami-Dade County. The OCOG study aims to identify and prioritize industries that will have the highest potential for creating new jobs required in the South Florida economy. Located in Austin, TX, Avalanche Consulting is a company whose focus is economic development services including in-depth research, competitive assessments, target industry identification, economic development strategies, and implementation plans. President Nero stated Avalanche Consulting is very familiar with the state of Florida as they have also expanded their services to the city of Jacksonville. He further stated the Economic Development Administration (EDA) is also familiar with Avalanche Consulting as the Jacksonville project is being funded through EDA. President Nero felt this exposure could prove beneficial if LSSF proceeded with a grant application to EDA. He will provide the contact information of Avalanche Consulting to Dr. Baines.

In reference to the assets that have already been collected, President Nero agreed to provide Dr. Grossman with the life sciences raw data that was collected to create the One Community One Goal reports as this will provide an opportunity to test the fidelity of the LSSF asset map data.

President Saunders noted the Board of Governors commissioned an Economic Impact study for the State University System (SUS). The report, Economic Contributions of the State University System (SUS) of Florida in 2009-10, can be found on the Florida Board of Governors website. The FIU Office of Engagement will forward this presentation to the group. This Economic Impact Study provides information of how the SUS has contributed to the economy; some of the data includes SUS operations, payroll, capital and student spending, and present value of graduate earnings, according to the scope of work. President Saunders is working to create a more in depth study in the FAU area.

- c) **STEM K-20 Student and Workforce Development** – Provost Montoya informed the group that the subcommittee recognized the need for teacher preparation



programs, both for pre-service and in-service teachers, and they have added this component to the Strategic Priorities. Provost Montoya noted the absence of representatives from the K-12 school system and stated they are working towards identifying representatives from the public schools of participating counties – Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Charlotte, and St Lucie. Provost Montoya explained this to be a critical piece as these individuals will provide their perspectives on teacher professional development that will help align the K-20 STEM pathway. The subcommittee acknowledged that effective interventions cannot be created without their voice. In addition, Provost Montoya explained that Dr. Heather Belmont, Dean of the School of Science at Miami Dade College, is leading a comprehensive inventory of STEM programs hosted by academic institutions (i.e. tutoring, research opportunities, summer camps, etc.). Dr. Belmont is currently working on creating a template to gather this information; Dr. Grossman will forward the template to the group once it is received. The purpose of creating this inventory is to strengthen the STEM K-20 pathway through a comprehensive gap analysis to determine need and reciprocal sharing of best practice. Dr. Grossman emphasized the need to identify a representative from each institution to help with this project; each Executive Committee member needs to identify the contact person to assist Dr. Belmont in gathering the information. Dr. Gallon stated Dr. Libby Handel will be the representative from Palm Beach State College.

- d) Regional Conferences and Seminars** – Dr. Grossman explained that the subcommittee is working to identify potential topics and presenters for upcoming regional webinars. She explained the current topic, stem cell research, resulted from the presentation of Mike Thomas, CEO of BioHeart, Inc., at the previous Executive Committee Meeting and the two spin-off companies, Stemlogix and Ageless Regenerative Institute, that have resulted from the exploration of additional stem cell applications. Potential presenters include Dr. Joshua M. Hare, Director of Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute (ISCI), University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and Dr. Ranu Jung, Chair of Biomedical Engineering at Florida International University. Dr. Jung is a leader in Neural Engineering and Computational Neuroscience with extensive research in neural-enabled prostheses for individuals with disabilities.

President Saunders suggested a webinar focusing on best practices for targeting STEM K-12 career pathways as this topic aligns with the STEM K-20 Student and Workforce Development subcommittee. She stated this topic can further assist in both analyzing gaps in STEM K-12 initiatives and program development to address these gaps. Dr. Baines recommended creating a digital library comprised of the webinars and presentations on the LSSF website as this will also highlight activity



and further progress occurring in the region. President Nero added that links to these resources on the LSSF website could be channeled through the Economic Development Organizations (EDO) and the Beacon Council's webpage to promote the activity of LSSF. The EDOs could also be further leveraged to encourage more companies to participate as well.

Dr. Grossman informed the group of BioFlorida updates received from Dr. Libby Handel. The theme for the 2012 BioFlorida Conference is "Advancing the Business of Health" with an emphasis on innovation, efficiency, and globalization. Dr. Handel is currently seeking individuals to serve on the BioBusiness, BioInvesting, and BioScience Committees. Confirmed keynote speakers are former Florida Governor Jeb Bush and Bernard Siegel, Founder and Executive Director of Genetics Policy Institute (GPI). Dr. Grossman explained the importance of not only having LSSF present at the conference but participating institutions as well. Dr. Grossman will forward this information to the group.

President Nero noted the Bio International Convention taking place in Boston on June 18-21, 2012 and suggested LSSF consider having a presence at this conference as well. He stated that in previous years, the state of Florida, including the Beacon Council, have been present at the Bio International Convention.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. on January 23, 2012.

Action Items

1. Ms. Augustyniak will disseminate information on trends (geographic, topical, clusters) predominantly searched on Florida ExpertNet.
2. Dr. Baines will further explore Florida ExpertNet to learn if it is technically possible to build the LSSF shared communication portal from ExpertNet.
3. Vice Presidents of Research will identify relevant data that can be included in the shared communication portal and will identify a way to aggregate the information.
4. President Nero will provide Dr. Baines with the contact information of Avalanche Consulting.



5. President Nero will provide Dr. Grossman with data collected for the One Community One Goal to cross reference the life sciences data with the asset map and check for fidelity. Once received, FIU Office of Engagement will cross reference against data previously collected by institutions.
6. Dr. Grossman will disseminate the template that will be used to gather the innovative STEM programs once received.
7. Dr. Grossman will send the BioFLorida information received from Dr. Handel to Executive Committee members.
8. The FIU Office of Engagement will contact each academic institution to identify a contact person to assist in capturing K-20 STEM initiatives in their school.