NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT

Date: August 26, 2022

REGULATION TITLE: Institutes and Centers
REGULATION NO.: UCF-2.035

SUMMARY OF REGULATION AMENDMENT:
This regulation ensures that institutes and centers within the state university system are aligned with the goals of the university and the Florida Board of Governors’ requirements. The university proposes to amend the regulation to update the definitions and clarify the language regarding the establishment of institutes and centers, reporting requirements and the disbanding process.

AUTHORITY: BOG Regulations 1.001 and 10.015

NAME OF PERSONS WHO INITIATED PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT:
Winston Schoenfeld, Associate Vice President for Research

COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO THE CONTACT PERSON IDENTIFIED BELOW. The comments must identify the regulation you are commenting on.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT IS:
Regulations Administrator
4365 Andromeda Loop N.
Millican Hall, Suite 360
Orlando, FL 32816-0015
Phone: (407) 823-2482
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FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT:

UCF- 2.035 Institutes and Centers

1. Purpose – In order to ensure that institutes and centers implemented within the state university system are of the highest quality, enhance existing university activities, and are aligned with the goals of the university and the Florida Board of Governors, the following criteria and guidelines for institutes and centers are adopted.

2. Definitions – Within the context of this regulation, institutes and centers are defined according to Florida Board of Governors’ Regulation 10.015 as follows:
   (a) State of Florida Institute or Center: State of Florida Institute or Center is defined in the Florida Board of Governors’ Regulation 10.015(2)(a). An entity with statewide mission, that may include two or more State universities, established to coordinate inter-institutional research, service, and teaching across the State.
University System. State of Florida institutes and centers must be approved by the Board of Governors. State of Florida institutes and centers’ operational budgets reside within the bases of their host institutions; additional budget requests must be reviewed by the Council of Academic Vice Presidents (CAVP), and only those with a positive recommendation are carried forward to the Board of Governors for consideration.

(b) University Institute or Center: An entity that is a University Institute or Center is defined in the Florida Board of Governors’ Regulation 10.015(2)(b) as an entity that is generally established by a single university to coordinate institutional research, service, and/or educational/training activities that enhance existing instruction, research, and service at the university. The budget of a university institute or center and any requests for additional funding are wholly within the purview of the host university. UCF recognizes two types of university institutes and centers, reporting and nonreporting, as defined below.

1. Reporting university institute or center: Institutes or centers that support and coordinate research, training, and service in a well-defined area, leveraging existing strengths that are aligned with the institute or center. Typically, they have a strong history of recurring external funding from sources such as grants/contracts or legislative appropriations, and/or a dedicated recurring budget, sufficient to sustain operation. Reporting institutes and centers are formally established by presidential approval and their budgets and operations are overseen by the university. Such institutes and centers are registered with, and have formal reporting requirements to, the Florida Board of Governors.

2. Nonreporting university institute or center: These entities are recognized by UCF as institutes or centers but are not formally established through UCF presidential approval. They are not registered with, or have any formal reporting requirements to, the Florida Board of Governors. These units typically do not have a history of sustained operation and may be supported through external funding with a limited duration.

(c) Exclusions: There are entities that use the term “Institute” or “Center” in their titles, as well as some other service units, that are excluded from this policy. Examples of these units include the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS); the University of Florida Health Sciences Center; the University of South Florida Health Sciences Center; the Florida State University Health Sciences Center; the Florida Mental Health Institute; incorporated institutes and centers with university affiliations, such as the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition and the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute; and university advising, student health, computing, and certain other centers. However, excluded entities such as IFAS and the health sciences centers may have institutes or centers under their purview that are covered by the policies referenced in this document. There are some entities at the university level that use “center” or “institute” in their title but which are excluded from the requirements of the Board of Governors’ regulation and this university regulation. See Board of Governors’ Regulation 10.005(2)(c). Excluded entities at UCF include but are not limited to: the Student Health Center, the University Testing Center, the
(3) Establishment of Institutes or Centers:

(a) State of Florida Institute or Center. Florida Board of Governors’ Regulation 10.015(4)(a)-(b) describes the procedures to establish a State Institute or Center.

(b) The president may establish University Institutes and/or Centers. The provost shall be responsible for ensuring effective implementation of institute and center operations. A copy of an approved new university institute or center proposal containing basic descriptive, contact, and fiscal information shall be submitted to the Board of Governors Office of Academic and Student Affairs. In cases where more than one university is participating, a host university is designated to handle reporting and evaluation of the institute or center. To begin the process of establishing a university institute or center, a proposal must be submitted to the Office of Research. Proposal instructions and templates will be provided by the Office of Research. The proposal shall include the following, at a minimum: the name of the institute or center; a list of participating units; the mission and goals of the institute or center; planned operational budget over the first 5 years; and FTE of faculty, staff, students supporting the institute or center.

1. Reporting university institute or center proposals: The Vice President of Research, or designee, will review the proposal and forward the proposal with a recommendation to the provost. The provost then determines whether the proposal should be carried forward to the president for consideration. Only after formal approval from the president will the university institute or center be considered established, and implementation begin. The Florida Board of Governors’ office must be notified within 30 days of establishment of a new reporting university institute or center. Notices of establishment must include the institute or center name, the type of center, and a brief description of how the institute or center will enhance the university’s activities.

2. Nonreporting university institute or center proposals: The Vice President of Research, or designee, will review the proposal and decide if the institute or center should be recognized. Exempt university institutes or centers will only be implemented after Vice President of Research, or designee, approval of recognition. The institute or center will then be added to the UCF list of recognized UCF institutes and centers.

(4) Institute and Center Reporting Requirements

(a) Initial Reporting – Upon receipt of notification that a record has been created for the institute or center in the Board of Governors Office of Academic and Student Affairs Institute and Center Reporting database, the host university shall enter descriptive and budgetary information in accordance with instructions provided by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs.

(b) Annual Reporting – No later than September 30 of each year, actual and estimated expenditure and position data shall be entered in the database for the fiscal year running from July 1 of the previous year to June 30 of the current year, in accordance with instructions provided by the Board of Governors Office of
Academic and Student Affairs. Where the University of Central Florida is the sole or host university in the institute or center, annual reporting information will be prepared and submitted to the Board of Trustees or its designee for approval prior to submission to the Board of Governors Office of Academic and Student Affairs. Annual reporting is required by all state and university institutes and centers, due to the Office of Research no later than July 31 of each year. Instructions and templates for annual reporting will be provided by the Office of Research.

(eb) Review and Evaluation — Copies of all review and evaluation information shall be submitted to the Board of Governors Office of Academic and Student Affairs.

1. State of Florida institutes and centers shall be reviewed based on criteria and procedures established by the Florida Board of Governors’ Regulation 10.015(5)(c).

2. University institutes and centers must be reviewed according to procedures developed by the Office of Academic Affairs. A formal review shall be conducted at least every seven years at least every seven (7) years as established by the Florida Board of Governors’ Regulation 10.015(5)(c)(2).

3. At a minimum, all reviews and evaluations shall include:
   a. A determination of the institute or center’s progress against defined goals and objectives within the context of the institute or center’s mission, the participating university missions, and the current Florida Board of Governor’s Strategic Plan;
   b. An assessment of the return on investment of State dollars, if applicable;
   c. The need for continuation of the institute or center;
   d. Possible changes in mission or organizational structure;
   e. Budget reduction or expansion;
   f. Recommendations for change of classification (State of Florida, Infrastructural, or University institute or center), if applicable; and
   g. Recommendations for status change (active, inactive, terminated), if applicable.

(5) Disbanding an Institute or Center — The president may disband a university institute or center, with the agreement of participating universities, if applicable. State of Florida institutes and centers shall be disbanded at the recommendation of the Council of Academic Vice Presidents and upon the approval of the Board of Governors. When a university institute or center is disbanded by the president, the Office of Academic Affairs shall notify the Board of Governors Office of Academic and Student Affairs. If a disbanded institute or center has been funded by the Legislature, the Office of Academic Affairs will also provide documentation to ensure that the Legislative intent has been achieved and that the institute or center is no longer required. Fiscal information must be provided as part of the annual reporting process if the institute or center expends any funds during the fiscal year in which it is disbanded.

   (a) State of Florida institutes and centers shall be disbanded at the recommendation of the Council of Academic Vice Presidents and upon the approval of the Florida Board of Governors, as outlined in Florida Board of Governors’ Regulation 10.015(6).
(b) University institutes or centers.

1. Reporting university institute or center: The UCF president may disband a reporting university institute or center, with the agreement of participating universities, if applicable. When a university institute or center is disbanded by the president, the Office of Academic Affairs shall notify the Florida Board of Governors Office of Academic and Student Affairs. If a disbanded institute or center has been funded by the Legislature, the Office of Academic Affairs will also provide documentation to ensure that the Legislative intent has been achieved and that the institute or center is no longer required. Fiscal information must be provided as part of the annual reporting process if the institute or center expended any funds during the fiscal year in which it is disbanded.

2. Nonreporting university institute or center: The Vice President of Research, or designee, may disband an exempt university institute or center. Upon disbandment, the institute or center will be removed from the UCF listing of active recognized institutes and centers and will complete a final annual report for the fiscal year.