

Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting
University of Central Florida
January 18, 2005

Chairman Nunis called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order in the Cape Florida Ballroom of the UCF Student Union at 2:35 p.m. The following members attended the meeting:

The Honorable Judy Albertson	The Honorable Richard Lee
The Honorable Olga Calvet	The Honorable Kevin Peters
The Honorable Arlen Chase	The Honorable Harris Rosen
The Honorable Patrick Christiansen	The Honorable Conrad Santiago
The Honorable Geraldine Ferris	The Honorable Richard Walsh
The Honorable Phyllis Klock	The Honorable Thomas Yochum

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairman Nunis welcomed the board members and called for approval of the minutes of the November 30th meeting. The minutes were approved with one correction: on page 5, under BOT-4, on the fifth line, “he” was changed to “Mr. Mandell.”

REMARKS

President Hitt began his remarks by introducing **Dr. Ali T-Raissi** and **Dr. Cunping Huang** of the Florida Solar Energy Center’s Hydrogen Research and Development Division, who were honored with the Innovative Technology Award at the 15th World Hydrogen Conference in Japan for their work on a new solar thermo-chemical water-splitting cycle for hydrogen production. They were the only U.S. scientists honored at this prestigious international conference.

In addition, President Hitt recognized **Dr. Sandra Robinson**, Dean of the College Education, and **Dr. Michael Hynes**, Director of the Lockheed Martin-UCF Academy for Mathematics and Science, who had received the American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education for 2004 for the academy’s teacher education program. UCF is one of only three national winners of this prestigious honor.

President Hitt announced that to increase the state’s ability to attract, retain, and grow high tech industry and the workforce to support it, the Florida High Tech Corridor Council will welcome the University of Florida as a full partner in the economic development initiative founded in 1996 by the University of Central Florida and the University of South Florida. UF has pledged to invest \$2 million annually in the Corridor Council’s matching grant research program. Chairman Nunis commented that without the leadership of President Hitt and the leadership of USF, this corridor would not exist.

President Hitt referenced an article in the January-February 2005 issue of *Educause Review* entitled “Leadership, Goals, and Transformation: An Interview with John C. Hitt,” about transforming institutions through the use of information technology. “It highlights,” he stated, “some of things we’ve tried to do here over the 13 years I’ve been at UCF. It’s a strong statement about a model we have of empowering talented people to do the right things the right way.”

And lastly, President Hitt reported on current activities surrounding the building of an on-campus football stadium. He commented that, only in recent weeks, had the prospect surfaced of building a 45,000-50,000-seat stadium that could be constructed for less than \$50 million and ready in time for the 2006 football season. President Hitt and Chairman Nunis toured stadiums at the universities of Louisville and Kentucky and both left believing that a similar steel design could be well-suited for UCF. The stadium would be funded with donations and revenues from ticket sales, concessions, skybox rentals, and advertising. No state or tuition dollars would be spent on the stadium. If the board decides to move forward with a football stadium, it would be built on existing practice fields east of the UCF Arena in the area designated for intercollegiate athletics and recreation. Only 16 out of 117 NCAA Division I-A institutions play their home football games at an off-campus stadium and three of them are actively seeking an on-campus football stadium. “The bottom line is this: We really think this merits further study,” Hitt said. Nunis commented that “a stadium can make a campus special while providing a place for alumni to rally together.” He also commented that his primary reason for supporting a stadium was for what it would mean to the students.

BOT-1 – Feasibility Study for Proposed Football Stadium – A motion unanimously passed authorizing the hiring of a qualified firm to provide the Board by the March 31 meeting with a feasibility study on building an on-campus football stadium. The board may hold a special meeting before that date if the study is completed sooner.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Advancement Committee

Trustee Patrick Christiansen, chair of the Advancement Committee, discussed the following committee items:

On the development side, a four-year comparison report given by Robert Holmes, Vice President for Alumni Relations and Development, highlighted total contributions of \$32,839,402.24 as of January 14, 2005. Without including gifts-in-kind, support is ahead of last year at this time by about \$3 million. Holmes reported that the UCF Foundation, Inc., is projected to reach \$40 million in total contributions by fiscal year end. In addition, Chairman Christiansen reported two significant acquisitions by the Foundation in the Research Park--the University Tower and the Biomolecular Research Building.

On the legislative side, Dan Holsenbeck, Vice President for University Relations, reported that UCF's share of this year's proposed E & G budget is \$214.8 million as compared to last year's share of \$212 million. He reported that the governor is proposing a mandated 7.5% increase for resident undergraduate student tuition with the board being authorized to establish tuition rates for out-of-state undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. In addition, he reported that PECO funds will be very limited at approximately \$6 million.

Educational Programs Committee

Trustee Geraldine Ferris, chair of the Educational Programs Committee, recapped the items discussed in the morning committee meeting:

The Florida Board of Governors' Strategic Plan requires that fifty percent of the total degree production in state universities be in state-defined targeted programs by 2012-2013. Targeted programs would be those that the state believes meet critical needs or deal with emerging technologies, high-wage bachelor's programs, and high-wage graduate programs. A summary of the plan is as follows:

- creates a state goal for 50% targeted degree production
- requires changes to many policies and practices such as
 - intense growth in some programs and decreases in others
 - authority for limited access
 - recruitment based on declared majors
 - enrollment plans related to degree yield rates at the discipline level
- impacts enrollment planning, recruitment, and budgets
- produces dramatic budget implications for targeted versus non-targeted programs

The list of targeted programs would not include hospitality management, criminal justice, and other major programs at UCF that administrators and trustees feel are important to the region. Administrators are concerned that they would have to cut the number of degrees awarded in those programs to meet the proposed standards if they are approved. "That would unfairly limit students' access to higher education," stated Provost Terry Hickey. Trustee Rosen commented that this plan is "a rather strange socialistic approach with no incentives." Suggestions were made to talk to the governor, talk to the staffs of other universities, and set another meeting before March 31st to come up with a strategy to be pro-active on the university's response to the BOG's new strategic plan.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' *Principles of Accreditation* now requires each university to prepare a Quality Enhancement Plan incorporating procedures that help institutions improve the quality of student learning. Potential themes developed by faculty and staff directed at identifying important issues that will help improve student learning at UCF are:

- communication fluency
- creativity, critical thinking, and innovation
- expanding life skills development
- increasing engagement to foster optimal learning

- increasing the academic challenge at UCF
- information fluency
- leadership and integrity in the global community
- research-centered learning

QEP ideas and comments are invited to be submitted using the following Web address:
http://iaaweb.ucf.edu/survey/qep_questionnaire.htm

And finally, Trustee Ferris comment that President Hitt plans to discuss the possibility of building a medical school at UCF at the January 27th meeting of the Florida Board of Governors. The results of the feasibility study of having a medical school at UCF indicate that all of Florida requires more healthcare professionals. Studies addressing the shortage of physicians suggest solutions that include increasing enrollment at our existing medical schools, attracting and retaining physicians currently in the state, and increasing the number of medical schools available in the state.

Finance Committee

Trustee Conrad Santiago, chair of the Finance Committee, discussed the following committee items:

William Merck, Vice President for Administration and Finance, gave a brief update on the UCF 2005 Campus Master Plan and indicated that it had been challenged. The board will be updated on the status of the challenge at the next meeting. In addition, Mary McKinney, Executive Director of Student Financial Assistance, reported that the direct loan program with NelNet, Inc., was ahead of projected earnings and it is expected to continue to grow as the program moves forward.

A discussion took place regarding safety factors for student housing. Dr. Maribeth Ehasz, Interim Vice President of Student Development and Enrollment, indicated that her office is working on a consumer's report that will be made available primarily to families of students living in off-campus housing. This self-assessment report would indicate the various safety components at each facility and could include occupant protection ratings that would be tied to the facility's compliance with safety standards. The Finance Committee will be given copies of these reports for feedback as they are developed.

- **FIN-1 – Housing Rental Rates 2005-2006** - a motion passed approving a 3.6 percent average rental rate increase for all types of accommodations for 2005-2006. The rate increase results from inflationary increases in the cost of goods and services, additional staff, salary increases, and necessary repairs and replacements. The increase achieves sufficient revenue generation to meet the obligations of the UCF housing system.

