



**MINUTES**  
**Educational Programs Committee**  
**University of Central Florida**  
**Board of Trustees**

January 13, 2017

*FAIRWINDS* Alumni Center

Conference call-in #800-442-5794, passcode 463796

**CALL TO ORDER**

Trustee Robert Garvy, chair of the Educational Programs Committee, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Committee members Ken Bradley, Chris Clemente, and Beverly Seay were present. Also present was Board of Trustees' Chairman Marcos Marchena.

**MINUTES**

The November 17, 2016, meeting minutes were approved as written.

**NEW BUSINESS**

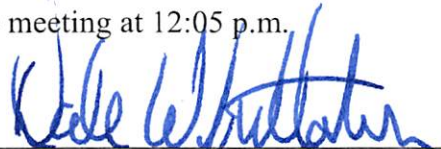
Provost's Update

Dale Whittaker, Provost and Executive Vice President, provided the following updates

- **Faculty Spotlight: UCF Natural Language Processing Group (INFO-1)** – Whittaker introduced Dr. Fei Liu, an assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science. Dr. Liu leads UCF's Natural Language Processing Group, whose mission is to develop natural language technologies that improve human language understanding and processing. Liu presented the research she conducts with undergraduate and graduate students in the areas of text summarization, language generation, social media analytics, and machine learning.
- **Path to Preeminence: Research Update (INFO 2)** – Whittaker reported that for the first time, UCF is ranked in the top 100 by the National Science Foundation in its R&D expenditures. His presentation cited UCF's historical rankings and expenditures, and compared the latest (2015) ranking among Florida research universities. The presentation looked ahead to preeminence metrics – how UCF performed this past year and how it expects to perform in research-related metrics in 2017.
- **Student Debt (INFO 3)** – In Whittaker's monthly mythbusters series, he looked at today's discourse surrounding student debt and the stories we see in the news regarding millions of Americans who have crushing debt from student loans. He reported that new research from Brookings and federal agencies shows that the majority of increase in student debt is seen in students who attend for-profit and two-year institutions. Whittaker showed how UCF's student debt compares to the nation's public institutions, as well as to Florida institutions, and to the family incomes of UCF students who carry no debt. Nearly half of UCF students graduate with no debt; and those who do take on an average of less than \$22,000, with a default rate that is well below the national average.

Trustee Garvy adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
A. Dale Whittaker  
Provost and Executive Vice President

2.28.17  
Date