



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Office of the President

University of Central Florida
Board of Trustees Meeting
Agenda
April 27, 2018
Millican Hall, 3rd floor, President's Boardroom
8:00 a.m.
800-442-5794, passcode 463796

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|------|--------------------|----------|---|
| I. | Call to Order | | Marcos Marchena
Chairman, Board of Trustees |
| II. | Roll Call | | Rick Schell
Associate Corporate
Secretary |
| III. | Public Comment | | Rick Schell |
| IV. | New Business | | Chairman Marchena |
| | BOT-1 | Approval | Honorary Doctor of Public
Service Degree |
| V. | Other New Business | | Chairman Marchena |
| VI. | Adjournment | | Chairman Marchena |

ITEM: BOT-1

**University of Central Florida
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

SUBJECT: Honorary Doctor of Public Service Degree

DATE: April 27, 2018

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION:

Approval of an Honorary Doctor of Public Service degree.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

See attached.

Supporting documentation: Attachment A: Letter of Nomination

Prepared by: Rick Schell, Vice President and Executive Chief of Staff

Submitted by: Rick Schell, Vice President and Executive Chief of Staff



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Board of Trustees

P.O. Box 160002
Orlando, FL 32816-0002

April 19, 2018

Marcos Marchena, Chairman
UCF Board of Trustees
P.O. Box 160002
Orlando, FL 32816-0002

Dear Chairman Marchena:

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I nominate Martha Halsted Hitt to be awarded an honorary doctoral degree in public service from the University of Central Florida. For the past 26 years, Mrs. Hitt has faithfully served our students, the UCF community, and Central Florida as University First Lady, ambassador and co-partner to President Hitt.

Mrs. Hitt has graciously and consistently fulfilled her responsibilities to the University. The First Lady of a university is not elected nor appointed. She has no official duties and is paid no salary. Yet, none of us could contemplate our university without her presence. She has been highly visible and involved. Virtually everyone in the university and the community has high expectations of her. She is always the university's First Lady.

She has served as the primary hostess of the university—hosting U.S. presidents, international dignitaries, faculty, students, alumni, and philanthropists. She has served as an ambassador to the community, often a stand-in for the president, a fundraiser, and an emblem of service. She has served as an official advisor to various groups and a board member for many others.

Her most important role has been the unofficial "First Mom" to the university's students. Many of us can remember our first time away from home when we felt so vulnerable. Her qualities of kindness, love, and support have made a positive difference in thousands of lives.

On any given day, she might have hosted a breakfast, cut a ribbon, visited with a contingent of students, attended a staff luncheon, counseled a faculty friend, attended the lecture of a visiting dignitary, and then hosted a community reception and dinner in his or her honor. During Mrs. Hitt's time as First Lady, she organized, hosted, or attended countless events, lectures, banquets, commencements, committee meetings, club meetings, plays, concerts, athletic events, charity events, and university fundraisers.

Her skills for tact, kindness, graciousness, and timing are enviable. Her ability to "never meet a stranger," the ability to make all people feel welcomed and appreciated make her the consummate diplomat for UCF.

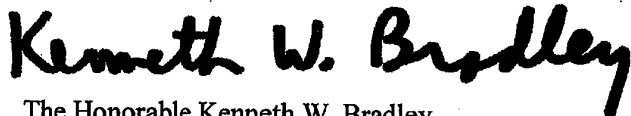
Her presence makes any event or meeting much better. Her opinion is sought and valued. She is an exceptional confidante. Her role as an *ex officio* member of many committees has been invaluable. She has contributed to the great success of the UCF these past 26 years through dedicated and selfless service. Her commitment to our university is unquestioned.

Mrs. Hitt has fulfilled her very public role with style, grace, stamina, patience, and excellence. She is the epitome of a great leader. In all she does she has made a positive difference for education. Martha gave all of herself to this community and the university, while maintaining a public | private balance for the president's family.

Regardless of the multitude of duties, the exhausting hours, and the absence of pay, Martha Hitt embraced and cherished her role. And, we have truly embraced and cherished Martha, the consummate University First Lady. If she had been enrolled as a student these past 26 years, she would have graduated with well over six degrees!

It is my honor and privilege to nominate Mrs. Hitt for an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree from the University of Central Florida.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Kenneth W. Bradley
UCF Board of Trustees
Former Mayor, City of Winter Park, Florida (2009-2015)