UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Board of Trustees
Educational Programs Committee
April 9, 2020
WebEx Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Kenneth Bradley, chair of the Educational Programs Committee, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Committee members Vice-Chair Caryl McAlpin, Trustee Kyler Gray, Trustee Harold Mills, and Trustee William Self were present. Board Chair Beverly Seay and Trustee David Walsh were also in attendance.

Chair Bradley bid farewell to Trustee Kyler Gray and Interim President Thaddeus Seymour. Bradley thanked them both for their service to the board and University of Central Florida.

MEETING MINUTES
February 6, 2020, meeting minutes were submitted for approval, motion to approve was made by Trustee Gray, and Trustee Self seconded. The committee unanimously approved the minutes as written.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Bradley introduced Interim Provost Johnson to present the next three agenda items.

Conferral of Degrees (EPC-1)
Interim Provost Michael Johnson requested approval for conferral of degrees with more than 8,000 graduates for Spring 2019.

Trustee Gray motioned to approve, and Trustee McAlpin seconded.

Provost Johnson provided information related to options for commencement ceremonies, due to postponement related to Covid-19. Johnson provided two options that are being considered for graduates; a virtual ceremony for each individual college; or a face-to-face commencement ceremony on a date to be announced.

The committee unanimously approved Conferral of Degrees with affirmation.

Tenure with Hire (EPC-2)
Provost Johnson also presented Tenure with Hire for one newly hired faculty member, who has been deemed eligible for tenure based on UCF requirements. Department faculty and the university administrative officers have approved granting tenure to this faculty member.

Trustee Self motioned to approve, and Trustee McAlpin seconded.

Chair Bradley commented and made reference to this faculty member also being UCF's new president. Adding that this tenure recommendation is a separate issue.

The committee unanimously approved Tenure with Hire for this faculty member.

2020 Tenure Recommendations (EPC-3)
Provost Johnson presented 43 faculty members for consideration of tenure. The tenure process at UCF requires that tenure-earning faculty members seek tenure by the end of their sixth year of employment; those in College of Medicine must seek tenure by the end of their eighth year. The procedure is reviewed by the department promotion and tenure committee, department chair, and the college dean. Department faculty members and the university's administrative officers have approved granting tenure to this faculty member.

Trustee Walsh was recognized. While he supports tenure, he questioned the timing of this decision in the light of the financial changes the university will need to make due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The provost discussed the process for tenure approval; along with the Human Resources and financial implications of this decision. Trustee Self commented a delay in this decision could have a deleterious impact on current faculty morale and future faculty hiring. Committee discussion ensued.

Trustee Self motioned to approve, and Trustee Gray seconded.

The committee unanimously approved 2020 Tenure Recommendations.

2020 Accountability Plan (EPC-4)
Paige Borden, Associate Provost and Chief Analytics Officer, Division of Analytics and Integrated Planning, presented the Accountability Plan by outlining the various sections of the plan, Performance-Based Funding Metrics, and Preeminent Metrics. Borden went on to explain that corrections and adjustments based on Covid-19 may be added prior to approval by Board of Trustees and submission to Board of Governors.

Trustee McAlpin motioned to approve, and Trustee Gray seconded.

The committee unanimously approved the 2020 Accountability Plan with future adjustments.

New Degree Program - Bachelor of Science in Data Science (EPC-5)
Timothy Letzring, Senior Associate Provost for Academic Affairs presented the new degree program proposal, BS in Data Science. Letzring explained that this degree program is an emerging discipline that seeks to infer insights from large amounts of 'big data'. The discipline is concerned with both statistical techniques that measure the validity of such insights and with computational techniques for managing data and resources efficiently.

Trustee McAlpin motioned to approve, and Trustee Self seconded.

The committee unanimously approved the Bachelor of Science in Data Science degree program.

<u>Provost's Update</u>
Interim Provost Michael Johnson began his update highlighting UCF faculty members and their adaption to remote instruction, touting strides that have been made in a very short time period.

Provost Johnson went on to speak about the Division of Digital Learning, led by Vice Provost Thomas Cavanagh, as a key reason teaching online courses is successful. The Division of Digital Learning instructional designers have prepared clear instructions online for faculty members and students. In the first week, the Digital Learning team assisted with moving nearly 5,000 face-to-face course sections and more than 700 blended sections to remote delivery. This resulted in more than 700,000 credit hours being taught fully online, up from over 200,000 prior to March 18, 2020, with relatively few issues.

Provost Johnson also presented information on the addition of grading options for students as they navigate this challenging time. Students may opt to change from a letter grade to a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory mark in their classes. They can make the choice class by class. For undergraduates, "satisfactory" maps to A through C, and "unsatisfactory" means C- and below. For graduate students, "satisfactory" is A through B-. Transcripts will indicate that the S/U option was provided because of the Covid-19 pandemic; this option does not affect GPA.

Johnson continued with UCF's focus on health and measures taken to protect people, while continuing to offer quality teaching. He also, spoke about the yet unknown financial impact for UCF in the coming year; including Florida's economy and reliance on tourism and related service industries. Johnson explained that the budget unknowns and possible adjustments by the Legislature has led to directing the university to enter a period of frugality by implementing a hiring freeze and spending caps for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Johnson went on to highlight donations by the university to Orlando Health; goggles and other available face protection equipment. Theatre department costumers created face masks, as have various staff members; Limbitless Solutions, acclaimed for making personalized bionic arms for children provided 3D printing face shields for healthcare workers and first responders.

In added news, Johnson highlighted UCF's graduate video game design program being No. 1 in North America. He spoke of Rosen College of Hospitality Management named in the top five of best hospitality and hotel management schools in the world; also recognizing 2020 Pegasus Professor honorees.

Interim Provost Johnson closed with announcing former Provost Elizabeth Dooley's decision to return to faculty, and him continuing as interim provost until a new provost is selected.

<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Chair Bradley adjourned the Educational Programs Committee meeting on April 9, 2020, at 3:45 p.m.

Reviewed by: _Kenneth W. Bradley_   July 7, 2020
              Kenneth Bradley   Date
              Chair, Educational Programs Committee

Submitted by: _Janet D. Owen_   July 7, 2020
               Janet Owen   Date
               Associate Corporate Secretary