



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**Board of Trustees
Educational Programs Committee
November 18, 2020
Virtual Meeting
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Kenneth Bradley, chair of the Educational Programs Committee, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Committee members present were Trustee and Vice-Chair Caryl McAlpin, Trustee Sabrina La Rosa, Trustee Harold Mills, and Trustee David Walsh. Committee member and Trustee Joseph Harrington joined the meeting in session. Board of Trustees Chair Beverly Seay also attended.

MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Harrington suggested changes to the minutes before approval. October 14, 2020, meeting minutes will be submitted to the committee for approval at the February 10, 2021 meeting.

REPORTS

Inspirational Spotlight

Dr. Maribeth Ehasz, Vice President for Student Development and Enrollment Services and a first-generation graduate, spoke about her opportunity to impact many students during her UCF tenure and higher education career. She said her father had a significant influence on her life. He dreamed of attending college. He was very excited to get an opportunity to participate in a training program at a small college, where he received a certificate for his achievement. Her father's wish and dream were paramount in determining her career. She said studies show that fathers play a significant role in shaping their daughters' goals.

In closing, Ehasz acknowledged teachers' role in inspiring her to be curious and pursue her dreams. She emphasized a high school teacher who instilled the notion that she could do anything.

Provost Update

In his provost update, Interim Provost Michael Johnson recognized faculty and students for their resilience during the pandemic. He particularly emphasized the faculty's hard work in providing high-quality teaching and students' efforts to learn in the face of adversity. He said UCF continues to deliver valuable teaching, research, and service to transform despite adverse conditions. Overall, he said, faculty and students had adapted well academically despite stressors and challenges from the pandemic that included severe disruptions and remote learning adjustments.

The provost provided data on student performance for summer 2020 vs. the previous summer. The data showed that the successful completion of credit hours by undergraduate students went up slightly this summer, as did GPA.

Provost Johnson also outlined plans for spring teaching:

- Led by our deans and chairs, faculty will deliver more face-to-face teaching than this fall. He said the campus experience is vital for student success, especially in the retention and eventual graduation of undergraduates. The university is obligated to do its best to provide a full experience, he said.

- There are two significant limitations to our ability to offer face-to-face classes: classroom availability given COVID capacity constraints with physical distancing and an approved medical exemption for instructors
- For the spring 2021 semester, UCF has an updated exemption form allowing faculty to document these high-risk conditions and seek an exemption from face-to-face courses.

Johnson said 248 people had requested exemptions; he also shared results from a Faculty Senate survey that indicated most faculty members are concerned about teaching face-to-face classes in the Spring 2021 semester.

Provost Johnson said the university learned a great deal about teaching on campus from the past two semesters. The overarching goal is always to prioritize health and well-being. Overall, the campus community has complied well with our COVID-19 policies.

Currently, 3,100 spring sessions are planned with an on-campus component, above the 2,100 this fall but well below the 5,600 face-to-face or mixed mode of last spring. Students began registering for spring courses on November 2, 2020.

Interim Provost Johnson said UCF's final fall enrollment settled at 71,948, up about 3.5 percent. UCF's minority enrollment has reached a new high of 48.5 percent as the university progresses toward becoming a minority-majority institution.

Applications for next fall's FTIC class are down about a quarter from last year and are comparable to applications at the same time three years ago. Transfer applications are down 18 percent, and SAT/ACT scores received are down about a third. Florida is one of two states still requiring these tests. It is not clear if that will result in fewer applications or just later applications.

Johnson noted it was International Education Week. He said UCF has many outstanding international faculty – including President Alexander Cartwright – who help give our students a new global perspective. Even more critical is having international students on campus, he said. Their presence broadens the horizons of all students at UCF. Johnson said international and global education is one of the significant areas of focus for UCF in the coming years. A committee of faculty and staff will make strategic recommendations for direction and improvements.

The October 1 retirement of Dr. Jeffrey Jones, Vice Provost of UCF Connect and UCF Global, contributed to the academic realignment of several academic units that will benefit UCF in the future, Johnson said. Those were:

- UCF Global now reports to Timothy Letzring, Senior Associate Provost for Academic Affairs. Letzring will oversee strategic thinking about international education.
- DirectConnect to UCF® and the UCF Connect Centers now report to Theodora Regina Berry, Vice Provost of Student Learning and Academic Success, and Dean, College of Undergraduate Studies; this move combines transfer FTIC advising.
- The UCF Online Connect Center has moved to the Division of Digital Learning, under Dr. Thomas Cavanagh, Vice Provost for Digital Learning.
- The Office of Instructional Resources Classroom Support teams moved to UCF IT, reporting to Michael Sink, Interim Vice President, and CIO.

Johnson recognized Jones for excellent work in reshaping regional campuses and improving Direct Connect. Jones' success was rewarded in his last years at UCF with oversight of UCF Global. Johnson said he was very grateful for Jones' time with UCF and wished him well in his next life chapters.

NEW BUSINESS

Conferral of Degrees (EPC-1)

Chair Bradley called on Interim Provost Johnson to present this item. Johnson said UCF would award over 6,300 degrees at Fall Commencement on December 19, 2020; virtual ceremonies that day will feature all 13 UCF colleges.

Due to the pandemic, there will not be the usual graduation ceremonies. UCF has created the UCF Grad Walk in the Student Union's Pegasus Ballroom as a supplementary graduation experience.

Trustee McAlpin motioned to approve the Conferral of Degrees, and Trustee Harrington seconded. The committee passed the item unanimously.

New Degree Program – Master of Science in Cybersecurity and Privacy (EPC-2)

Chair Bradley described the proposed program as collaborative, combining UCF Colleges of Engineering and Computer Science, Business Administration, Sciences, Community Innovation and Education, Graduate Studies, and the School of Modeling, Simulation. Chair Bradley introduced Dr. Timothy Letzring to present the new degree program proposal.

Letzring said this 30 credit-hour program builds on UCF's current reputation in Cybersecurity, as outlined by both the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. UCF is a designated center of academic excellence for cyber defense education and cyber defense research. The College of Engineering and Computer Science will host this program.

Trustee Harrington motioned to approve, and Trustee Walsh seconded. The committee unanimously approved the new degree proposal.

Accountability Plan – Mid Cycle Metric Review (INFO-1)

Chair Bradley introduced Dr. Paige Borden, Associate Provost and Chief Analytics Officer, Analytics, and Integrated Planning. Borden began with a reminder the Board of Governors (BOG) only partially approved Accountability Plans due to the pandemic. The supported elements include the data, enrollment plans, and projections for new degree programs.

Borden also discussed the benchmarking associated with Performance-based Metrics and Preeminent Research Metrics along with alterations to the Performance-based Funding program. She explained goals and points achieved in 2020 and UCF's rank within the SUS, including comparable data from previous periods. Dr. Borden also introduced two new metrics: AA transfer 2-year Graduation Rate and Pell 6-year Graduation Rate. Borden's presentation concluded with Preeminent University Metrics involving five either emerging-preeminent or fully preeminent universities.

Chair Bradley said UCF has more work to do in reaching its goals for metrics.

Amendment to University Regulation 2.036 – College Credit for Nontraditional Course Before Initial Enrollment (INFO-2)

Chair Bradley called on Interim Provost Michael Johnson and Senior Vice Provost Tim Letzring to discuss this amendment. Bradley said this information item is on the Governance Committee agenda as an approval item.

Letzring indicated this regulation also relates to BOG Regulation 6.020 and seeks to clarify the authority, responsibility and roles, and standards for determining UCF credit equivalency for non-traditional courses completed before the initial term of enrollment. These amendments restrict the number and types of entities from which UCF will consider awarding credit for non-traditional

