



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**Board of Trustees
Educational Programs Committee
April 14, 2021
Virtual Meeting
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Alex Martins, chair of the Educational Programs Committee, called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Committee members present were Trustees Joseph Harrington, Sabrina La Rosa, and Caryl McAlpin. Board of Trustees Chair Beverly Seay also attended.

MEETING MINUTES

The Educational Programs Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes of February 9, 2021, with amendment.

REPORTS

Provost Update

In his provost update, Interim Provost Michael Johnson began by welcoming recently reappointed Trustee Alex Martins, the new chair for Educational Programs Committee. Johnson also recognized and thanked Trustee Sabrina La Rosa for her contributions to the committee and the Board of Trustees. This was her last committee meeting as Student Government president.

Johnson provided details on other topics, including:

Spring Break

Spring break for students and faculty was scheduled later than usual, from April 11-18, as a precaution in case COVID-19 turned out to be widespread or growing.

Summer and Fall Plans

Scheduling for summer and fall classes began in March. The summer schedule was built based on the expectation the CDC would still recommend COVID precautions such as masks and physical distancing. For Summer A, C, and D, course schedules are much like the spring; a reasonable number of courses are on campus, but most sections are remote.

Summer B added extra on-campus classes, particularly courses important for freshmen who begin in Summer B. This meant splitting some classes into smaller sections and fitting them into smaller classrooms, based on availability. Exemptions from face-to-face teaching this summer will be handled through the normal processes (Americans with Disabilities Act, chair discretion, etc.) and not through a special COVID exemption form, due to the widespread availability of vaccines.

For fall, UCF is planning for an ordinary class schedule, like pre-pandemic days. There may continue to be COVID measures in place contingent on CDC guidelines. If COVID conditions worsen, the university will pivot to more remote teaching.

COVID Relief Funding

There is still uncertainty about this fiscal year's budget. Hiring and spending freezes were imposed early in the fiscal year, although many hiring freeze exemptions have been approved, especially for critically needed faculty.

Planning

The president has stated a goal of UCF becoming a top 50 public research university. Student outcomes are already top 50, but resources are decidedly far from the top 50. With strategic thinking, UCF is developing various scenarios that could lead to top 50 status.

The plan needs to include reducing the student-faculty ratio to a level consistent with other top 50 public institutions. It took over a decade to get into our current situation with a high student-faculty ratio, and it will take some years to undo it. UCF will work this summer and fall to shape more solid plans

Johnson closed by highlighting achievements of faculty and students:

- UCF's graduate video game program is ranked No. 1 in the world by the *Princeton Review* and *PC Gamer* magazine.
- For the fifth straight year, *CEOWorld* magazine ranks the Rosen College among the world's top five best hospitality and hotel management schools.
- In the latest *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of *Best Graduate Schools*, 30 UCF graduate programs rank among the best nationally.
- A record 16 UCF students and alumni recently earned National Science Foundation graduate research fellowships, the most in our history.
- And four students earned highly prestigious Goldwater Scholarship Awards – the same number as Harvard, MIT, Yale, and Johns Hopkins. These awards recognize sophomores and juniors who have promise for becoming research leaders in STEM fields.

NEW BUSINESS

2021 UCF Accountability Plan (EPC-1)

Dr. Paige Borden, Associate Provost and Chief Analytics Officer, presented an overview of the 2021 plan, highlighting UCF's strategic direction, performance-based funding, and preeminence; key performance metrics; enrollment planning; and potential academic program development.

Trustee McAlpin motioned to approve, and Trustee LaRosa seconded.

The committee unanimously approved the 2021 UCF Accountability Plan.

Tenure with Hire (EPC-2)

Interim Provost Johnson requested tenure with hire for three faculty members: Grace M. Bochenek, College of Graduate Studies, who will serve as UCF's Director of the School of Modeling, Simulation, and Training; Stephen S. Eikenberry, College of Optics and Photonics; and Matthew T. Theriot, College of Health Professions and Sciences, the new Director of the School of Social Work.

Trustee LaRosa motioned to approve, and Trustee McAlpin seconded.

The committee unanimously approved Tenure with Hire.

2021 UCF Tenure Recommendations (EPC-3)

Interim Provost Johnson requested tenure approvals for 45 faculty members. These candidates underwent an extensive consideration process that includes reviews of their research by outside experts, and evaluations of their teaching, research, and service by the department's tenured faculty, the department chair, the college promotion and tenure committee, the dean of the college, and the university promotion and tenure committee. The final recommendation is made by the president in consultation with the provost. As part of a committee discussion on this item, a suggestion was made to hold a workshop on the tenure process at a future date.

Trustee McAlpin motioned to approve, and Trustee Harrington seconded.

The committee unanimously approved 2021 UCF Tenure Recommendations.

Conferral of Degrees (EPC-4)

Johnson said UCF expects to award more than 9,100 degrees this spring, which includes baccalaureate, master's, specialists, and doctoral degrees. Commencement ceremonies return this spring. Graduates had two options for participating the Grad Walk in the Pegasus Ballroom, April 30-May 5, or a somewhat traditional but smaller ceremony in the Addition Financial Arena, which will host seven ceremonies from May 6-8, including a doctoral ceremony.

Trustee Harrington motioned to approve, and Trustee LaRosa seconded.

The committee unanimously approved Conferral of Degrees.

Degree Program Termination – Modern Languages Combination Program – Foreign Languages (EPC-5)

Termination of this bachelor's degree program was requested by Dr. Timothy Letzring, Senior Associate Provost for Academic Affairs. This program, which allowed students to study two languages, was inactivated in 2015 following low enrollment and a shortage of faculty.

Trustee LaRosa motioned to approve, and Trustee McAlpin seconded.

The committee unanimously approved the Degree Program Termination – Modern Languages Combination Program – Foreign Languages.

New Degree Program Proposal – Ph.D. in Kinesiology (EPC-6)

Dr. Letzring also proposed the development of a new Ph.D. degree program in Kinesiology. This proposal represents the continuation of the education Ph.D. in the newly organized School of Kinesiology and Physical Therapy in the College of Health Professions and Sciences.

Trustee Harrington motioned to approve, and Trustee McAlpin seconded.

The committee unanimously approved the New Degree Program Proposal – Ph.D. in Kinesiology.

Amendment to University Regulation, UCF 2.036, College Credit for Nontraditional Courses Prior to Initial Enrollment (INFO-1)

This proposed amendment presented by Letzring clarifies the meaning of the term “nontraditional” and explains the type of nontraditional courses that may be eligible for credit awarded by the university.


Amendment to University Regulation, UCF 3.010, Faculty Evaluation, and Improvement (INFO-2)

Lucretia Cooney, Director for Faculty Excellence, presented this amendment that defines evaluations of administrative and OPS adjunct faculty members.

Both amendments were considered for approval on the Governance Committee agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Martins adjourned the Educational Programs Committee meeting of April 14, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

Reviewed by: 
Alex Martins
Chair, Educational Programs Committee

6.21.21
Date

Submitted by: 
Janet Owen
Associate Corporate Secretary

6-24-21
Date