



Board of Trustees

**Board of Trustees
Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee
September 22, 2021
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Beverly Seay, chair of the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Committee members present were Vice-Chair Joseph Conte and Trustees Tiffany Altizer, Meg Hall, Joseph Harrington, and Caryl McAlpin. Board of Trustees' Chair Alex Martins and Trustees Jeff Condello and John Miklos also attended.

MEETING MINUTES

The Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes of June 16, 2021.

REPORTS

Provost Update (DISC-1)

In his provost update, Interim Provost Michael Johnson provided details on these topics:

Recognitions

Interim Provost Johnson welcomed the UCF Computer Programming Team as special guests. The team has reached the world finals of the International Collegiate Programming Contest each year for the past decade.

Johnson noted such success requires excellent practice and preparation and strong faculty support. He praised the contributions of faculty adviser Ali Orooji, who has advised the team for three decades, and coach Glenn Martin, who helped the team that reached the world finals. He also recognized committee Chair Seay for being a champion supporter of the group. The world final team's three student members – Sharon Barak, Seba Villalobos, and Daniel West – discussed the benefits of competing and how the experience has enhanced their personal, academic, and professional growth. Johnson wished the team much success at the world finals.

Fall Academics and COVID-19

Johnson said the university had returned mainly to pre-pandemic class schedules. He said half of UCF's students are experiencing an in-person campus environment for the first time.

Although COVID-19 cases spiked in Florida and Central Florida as the semester began, UCF has avoided runaway infections. Student cases are declining, and faculty and staff numbers remain low.

UCF maintains safety measures that include tracing, extra cleaning, isolating, quarantining, and distributing masks. The university also launched the Armor Up Campaign to promote vaccinations among students and provide incentives for those vaccinated by October 15. The incentives feature three drawings for tech bundles, textbooks and other supplies, and tuition and fee waivers. A random sampling of a selected cohort of students in the first week of fall classes showed over 72 percent with one shot and two-thirds of students as fully vaccinated. The Student Health Center has administered more than 1,000 vaccinations this semester.

Enrollment

Johnson called on Dr. Gordon Chavis, associate vice president of Enrollment Services, to discuss enrollment. Chavis said a strong freshman class included a record GPA of 4.22, a record 107 National Merit Scholars, an average SAT two-score of 1323, and an ACT score of 28.6. Forty-six percent of UCF's students are of color. The First Time in College (FTIC) 2021-22 class retention rate is approximately 92 percent. Preliminary, degree-

seeking fall enrollment is 70,106. Chavis said UCF realized a goal established in 2018 to reduce the annual enrollment growth rate from 3 percent to 1 percent over three years.

UCF HEERF Funds

Johnson said UCF received \$314.4 million in three tranches from the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), of which \$77 million remains to be allocated and will be spent by May 2022. Uses of the money include lost revenue, technology, HVAC repairs, testing, and extra cleaning. UCF received \$130 million in emergency student aid for students, awarding so far 77,000 grants totaling nearly \$102 million to help cover their debt, tuition, fees, housing, and more. The remaining \$28 million for students will be disbursed this fall.

President's 2021-22 Strategic Investment Program

Johnson provided details on the President's Strategic Investment Program. Made possible by reimagining a portion of funds from the central administration and colleges, the program aims to advance UCF's academic excellence, student success, and impact through investment in faculty and staff projects in three fund categories:

- *Academic Excellence*: Designed for big ideas of substantial impact.
- *Student Success*: Advance student retention, progression, graduation, and career success.
- *JumpStart*: One-time projects or purchases under \$500,000 that will amplify our impact.

He said 17 awards are pending for the JumpStart program. Submission deadlines have passed for the other two funds, with proposal reviews underway.

U.S. News & World Report Rankings

Johnson called on Dr. Paige Borden, associate provost and chief analytics officer, to present the latest university rankings featuring those from *U.S. News and World Report*.

She said UCF had moved up ten spots to No. 67 among the magazine's best public national universities and 12 spots to No. 148 among best national universities overall. UCF is only one of three institutions to show public ranking improvements five years in a row. Among the Most Innovative university rankings, UCF is first in Florida, eighth across public institutions, and 15th overall. Also, Borden said UCF ranked an impressive 25th among consolidated student outcomes, which includes categories such as graduation rate performance, social mobility, graduation and retention, and graduate indebtedness.

Class of 2020 Make-up Commencement Day

As a part of UCF's 50th Homecoming Week, Johnson said a make-up commencement ceremony for 2020 graduates is scheduled for November 5, 2021. Approximately 1,750 graduates have said they will attend.

In closing, Interim Provost Johnson expressed gratitude to faculty and others who have seen the university through this historic and challenging pandemic period.

Student Government President Report (DISC-2)

Trustee Meg Hall, Student Government president, reported on Student Government's executive branch and plans for the 2021-2022 academic year. She highlighted priorities for academics and government, athletics, diversity and inclusion, safety and transportation, sustainability and innovation, and communications and outreach.

Faculty Senate Chair Report (DISC-3)

Trustee Joseph Harrington, Faculty Senate chair, summarized the Senate's mission, structure, operations, and plans for the 2021-2022 academic year. Harrington outlined policy priorities, oversight and shared governance, Senate structure, and funding. The priorities complement the president's strategic planning initiative and objectives of the Board of Trustees' Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning Committee.

ACTION

2021 SUS Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report (AESC-1)

For committee approval, Dr. Timothy Letzring, senior associate provost for Academic Affairs, delivered the 2021 State University System Textbook and Instructional Material Affordability Report. An amendment to Florida House Bill 7019, Section 1004.085, requires each university to submit this report annually by September 30 to the chancellor of the State University System. The annual report addresses:

- No-cost textbooks and instructional material
- Low-cost materials
- Specific university policies for posting textbooks and instructional material

Trustee McAlpin motioned to approve, and Trustee Harrington seconded. The committee unanimously approved the 2021 SUS Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report.

DISCUSSION

Academic Programs Update (DISC-4)

Letzring presented the Academic Programs Update with details and highlights on programs approved between 2017 and 2019 including three bachelor's degrees, two master's degrees, and a doctoral program.

Accountability Plan Review (DISC-5)

Borden reported on UCF's performance on metrics in the plan, the strategic impact of the metrics, and how UCF compared to other SUS institutions. She said upcoming Academic Excellence and Student Success committee meetings would explore different segments of the plan.

INFORMATION

FY22 Workplan and Charter Review (INFO-1)

This information item allows the committee members to review and offer input on the Academic Excellence and Student Success committee's work plan for the 2022 fiscal year. It outlines the committee's anticipated reports, actions, discussions, and informational items for each meeting.

Also, the committee's inaugural charter was submitted with this information item to reference the committee's purpose, authority, roles, and responsibilities under the new committee structure.

Legislation Implementation Updates (INFO-2)

This second information item updates the implementation of significant academic legislation passed in the 2021 state legislative session that became effective July 1, 2021. The committee received details on several House bills and other educational policy changes affecting the Florida SUS.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Seay adjourned the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee meeting of September 22, 2021, at 11:26 a.m.

Reviewed by: Beverly Seay 12/1/21
 Beverly Seay Date
 Chair, Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee

Submitted by: Mike Kilbride 12/10/21
 Mike Kilbride Date
 Associate Corporate Secretary