



# Board of Trustees

**Board of Trustees  
Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee  
November 16, 2021  
MINUTES**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Trustee Beverly Seay, chair of the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

Committee members present were Trustees Tiffany Altizer, Meg Hall, Joseph Harrington, and Caryl McAlpin. Board of Trustees' Chair Alex Martins and Vice-Chair Harold Mills also attended.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee Tiffany Altizer motioned to approve, and Trustee Caryl McAlpin seconded. The Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes of September 22, 2021.

## **REPORTS**

### **Provost Update (DISC-1)**

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

#### **Seal of Excelencia**

UCF earned the Seal of Excelencia as a top institution for Latino students from *Excelencia* in Education. This designation makes UCF one of only 24 of 569 Hispanic-Serving Institutions nationwide with this certification.

Johnson noted UCF earned the seal by demonstrating evidence of effective and intentional practices to serve Latino students and a dedication to providing an environment where Latino students can thrive. The certification lasts for three years and then must be re-earned. Approximately 30 percent of UCF's student body identify as Hispanic.

#### **National Cyber League**

The Hack@UCF Knightsec team captured second place in the Fall 2021 National Cyber League Competition.

#### **Moot Court Teams**

UCF's Moot Court teams placed first and second in the University of Chicago's Invitational Tournament, topping 26 other teams, including Yale, the University of Chicago, and the University of Toronto.

#### **Research Funding**

UCF achieved a fifth straight year of school-record external research funding with \$213 million.

#### **Class of 2020 Make-up Commencement Day**

As a part of UCF's 50<sup>th</sup> Homecoming Week, UCF hosted a successful make-up commencement ceremony for 2020 graduates on November 5, 2021. The commencement speaker was three-time UCF graduate Darin Edwards, who led the development of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

#### **COVID-19**

Johnson reported UCF had managed the fall semester with COVID cases low following an earlier spike from the Delta variant. He said UCF expects to reach a 75 percent vaccination rate among students, with a higher probability for faculty and staff.

Spring 2022 classes are being planned for a pre-pandemic schedule while UCF remains prepared for the possibility of another wave.

### Student Success and Enrollment

Johnson provided details on fall's First Time in College first-year retention rate being approximately 92 percent, up from 91.5 percent in 2019, and down slightly from 92.2 in 2020. The First Time in College four-year graduation rates are 50 percent, up from 2019 and 2020.

Fall enrollment is 70,406, down from fall 2020. The decrease resulted from purposefully reducing First Time in College admissions to pull back from the enrollment bump of last fall. Meanwhile, transfers also decreased.

### President's 2021-22 Strategic Investment Program

Johnson said funds went to 17 of 70 proposed faculty and staff projects for the JumpStart Fund, one of three strategic investment program categories. The awards went to mostly research-related projects with key categories of funding that included curricular improvements, space research, energy, and cyber security infrastructure.

Proposals for the two other investment categories, Academic Excellence and Student Success, are under review.

### Deans and Searches

Johnson said a national search is underway to replace Pamela "Sissi" Carroll, founding dean of the College of Community Innovation and Education. They will retire at the end of the semester. Johnson thanked her for doing an outstanding job. Glenn Lambie, associate dean of Graduate Affairs and Faculty Excellence at CCIE, will become interim dean effective December 20.

Two new deans recently started their positions: Maggy Tomova, College of Sciences, from the University of Iowa, and Beau Case, founding dean of Libraries, from the University of Toledo.

Searches are underway for the associate provost of UCF Downtown and the director of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning.

In closing his report, Interim Provost Johnson expressed gratitude to faculty, students, and staff for overcoming challenges resulting from the pandemic.

### **ACTION**

#### Request for a New Degree Program – Ph.D. Biomedical Engineering (AESC-1)

Dr. Timothy Letzring, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, presented a request for committee approval of a new Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering. This degree program from the College of Engineering and Computer Science, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, will build upon the college's well-established reputation in this field and will support workforce needs.

Trustee Harrington motioned to approve, and Trustee McAlpin seconded. The committee unanimously approved the request for this new degree program.

#### Student Career Planning and Development – UCF Response to House Bill 1261 (AESC-2)

Dr. Adrienne Frame, Interim Vice President for Student Development and Enrollment Services, submitted UCF's plan to develop an online module to enhance career planning and development for undergraduate students during their first year of enrollment as required by House Bill 1261 from the 2021 legislative session.

Trustee Hall motioned to approve, and Trustee Altizer seconded. The committee unanimously approved UCF's plan to comply with House Bill 1261.



Tenure with Hire (AESC-3)

Interim Provost Johnson submitted a tenure with hire request regarding Dr. Maggy Tomova, UCF's new dean of the College of Sciences.

Dr. Tomova received her Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She comes to UCF from the University of Iowa as a tenured professor of mathematics.

Trustee Harrington motioned to approve, and Trustee McAlpin seconded. The committee unanimously approved this item.

Conferral of Degrees (AESC-4)

Interim Provost Johnson submitted for approval the conferral of degrees for fall 2021. UCF expects to award more than 6,200 degrees during commencement ceremonies on December 17 and 18, 2021.

Trustee Hall motioned to approve, and Trustee Harrington seconded. The committee unanimously approved the conferral of degrees.

**DISCUSSION**

The Role of Research in a Metropolitan University (DISC-2)

Dr. Elizabeth Klonoff, Vice President for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, provided a presentation on the role of research in a metropolitan university. This presentation explained why research is one of the most critical components for faculty and students and the many ways that research benefits society and fuels economic prosperity. She also underscored the role of research in enhancing UCF's reputation and that research would be an integral part of UCF's strategic plan.

Accountability Plan Review (DISC-3)

Dr. Paige Borden, Associate Provost and Chief Analytics Officer facilitated this discussion item with insights on various UCF accountability plan metrics related to graduate scholarship, research, and innovation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Seay adjourned the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee meeting of November 16, 2021, at 11:32 a.m.



Reviewed by:

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Beverly Seay  
Chair, Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee

February 28, 2022

Date

Submitted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Kilbride  
Associate Corporate Secretary

2/28/22.

Date