



# Board of Trustees

**Board of Trustees  
Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee  
May 25, 2022  
MINUTES**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Trustee Beverly Seay, chair of the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

Committee members present were committee Vice-Chair Joseph Conte and trustees Tiffany Altizer, Stephen King, Daniella Lopez, and Caryl McAlpin. Board of Trustees' Chair Alex Martins and trustees Michael Okaty, and John Miklos also attended. Chair Seay welcomed King, the newly elected trustee faculty representative, and Lopez, the newly elected trustee representing Student Government, to their first meeting as committee members.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee King motioned to approve, and Trustee Lopez seconded. The Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes of February 22, 2022.

## **REPORTS**

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

In his provost update, Provost Michael Johnson addressed the following topics:

*Accolades, Key Hires, COVID-19, Enrollment, Student Success, Legislative Updates, and Knight Vision*

### **Accolades**

The University of Central Florida Cyber Security Competition Team recently earned its second straight national championship in the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition. Johnson provided more context about the team's remarkable success. He said 290 schools have competed during the competition's 17 years, with UCF participating since 2013. Only nine schools have won national championships. UCF has won five, while no other team has won more than three. Meanwhile, all UCF alumni team members have gone on to great success in cybersecurity, software engineering, or technology management roles with high-profile companies such as Apple, Meta, Microsoft, Amazon, and Cisco. Johnson praised the team members for their hard work and success and also recognized their outstanding coaching led by Tom Nederost in the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

### **Key Hires**

Johnson said national searches are complete for two key leadership positions:

Dr. Paul Dosal is joining UCF from the University of South Florida as the Senior Vice President for Student Success. Dosal was a driving force behind USF's great results in improving student success over the past decade.

Dr. Grant Hayes will be UCF's new dean of the College of Community Innovations and Education. Hayes comes from East Carolina University, where he spent four years as dean of the College of Education and the last three years as interim provost. This is a return to UCF for Dr. Hayes, where he previously served in leadership roles at the former College of Education and Human Performance.

Johnson said the search is ongoing for UCF's new Senior Vice President for Advancement and Partnerships, and the search will launch soon for a new Vice President for Research.

## COVID-19

Johnson reported that health experts indicate we are entering the endemic phase. This doesn't mean COVID is gone but will rise and fall, like a more dangerous version of the flu, he said. In this new phase, UCF is standing down some of the previous protocols such as testing that was available on campus, the COVID hotline and notifications of faculty for students who test positive.

UCF will continue to monitor the virus and will adjust as necessary if conditions get worse, Johnson said.

## Enrollment

Johnson said enrollment is down for summer and in fall predictions compared to summer, the decrease is at about 8 percent; at 4 percent this time a year ago for fall.

Part of the reason is graduate enrollment is down, particularly for master's students. Johnson said this is not surprising given graduate programs tend to be cyclic. When job opportunities increase, graduate enrollment tends to go down. At the undergraduate level, some contributing factors to the decrease are improved graduation rates and students who have stopped pursuing their education. To mitigate these reductions, Johnson said UCF is admitting more freshmen and reaching out to students who have not re-enrolled.

While enrollment is down this summer, Johnson said the university is seeing wait lists for some online courses, despite in-person sections in the same courses having seats available. UCF has added some online courses to help students get those they need.

Projections for the final fall count are projected around 69,500, similar to fall 2019, he said.

## Student Success

Johnson said there are many ways to help students overcome barriers to completing their degree. One of them is a relatively new degree program, the Bachelor of General Integrative Studies. For more details, Johnson called on Dr. Wayne Bowen, Interim Associate Dean and Director of Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Undergraduate Studies.

Bowen said UCF introduced this degree program in 2019-20. UCF found that many students had more than 120 credit hours but couldn't finish because of one problem or another. The program enables students with at least 60 credit hours to overcome remaining obstacles and complete their bachelor's degree. UCF awarded its 1,000<sup>th</sup> degree from this program during spring commencement.

Chair Seay said the program is an innovative way to help students get their degree and move on to getting a job.

## Legislative Updates

Johnson provided the committee with updates from the Florida Legislature's 2021-22 session.

- Funding – UCF's final funding determinations depend on the governor's pending budget approval and vetoes. Currently, UCF stands to receive:
  - \$20 million in new operational support as part of educational and general base funding. The funds are aimed at investments to aid economic development, particularly in high-tech areas.
  - \$29 million to help build a new home for the UCF College of Nursing at Lake Nona's Medical City.
  - and nearly \$7 million for nursing and related efforts as a part of the Legislature's increased focus on the state's growing nursing shortage.
- House Bill 7 (Individual Freedom) – This bill alters the Florida civil rights law that prohibits discrimination and defines certain acts as discrimination. The law prohibits instruction or training that that "espouses, promotes, advances, inculcates, or compels [students] to believe" a set of subjects that address race, sexism, and society. Johnson said UCF is working to clarify how this legislation will affect faculty members' approach to teaching.

- Senate Bill 7044 – Johnson said this bill establishes a new five-year post-tenure review requirement for faculty. UCF already has a third-year review, which Johnson said will change.
  - This legislation also requires state universities in Florida to change accreditors with every future accreditation cycle. For both measures, The Board of Governors is developing new regulations which will give UCF a better understanding of next steps.
- Legislative Budget Requests – Johnson said the Board of Governors had recently provided instructions on how to submit this year’s legislative budget requests and that a UCF team has started work immediately on requirements.

Knight Vision – Johnson said the Knight Vision project is moving toward its July 1 start date. He said not everything will be perfect. A very strong team is working on the implementation with contingencies should serious problems develop. UCF’s new business platform’s expected start date is July 1. This will include Workday, a modern cloud-based ERP, and a partial staff reorganization that will reorder some finance and human resource functions.

In closing his report, Johnson said it looked like brighter times are here, with UCF moving from a reactive mode to thinking more strategically about the university’s course for the future. Johnson said he was grateful to everyone – particularly faculty and staff – who had helped the university get through two difficult pandemic years.

## **ACTION**

### **Conferral of Degrees (AESC-1)**

Johnson submitted for approval the conferral of degrees for summer 2022. UCF expects to award approximately 3,015 degrees during commencement ceremonies on August 5-6.

Trustee Altizer motioned to approve, and Trustee McAlpin seconded. The committee unanimously approved the Conferral of Degrees.

### **2022 UCF Tenure Recommendations (AESC-2)**

President Johnson presented 48 faculty members from across 10 colleges for consideration of tenure who had demonstrated high productivity and excellence in teaching, research, and service. He explained that the faculty members had gone through a rigorous and objective review process that takes years. 2022 Tenure Recommendations were presented by Provost Johnson.

Trustee King motioned to approve, and Vice-Chair Conte seconded. The committee unanimously approved the 2022 UCF Tenure Recommendations.

### **Tenure with Hire (AESC-3)**

Provost Johnson submitted a tenure with hire request for four highly qualified incoming faculty members:

- Dr. Nathan Bowling, College of Sciences, will serve as an associate professor in the Department of Psychology.
- Dr. Andrea Burrows, College of Community Innovation and Education, will serve as the director of the School of Teacher Education and a professor.
- Dr. Ann Eddins, College of Health Professions and Sciences will serve as the director of the School of Communications Sciences and Disorders and a professor.
- Dr. Azizeh Sowan, College of Nursing, will serve as chair of the Department of Nursing Practice.

Vice-Chair Conte motioned to approve, and Trustee King seconded. The committee unanimously approved Tenure with Hire.

### **Report from Student Government Immediate-Past-President (DISC-2)**

Meg Hall, former trustee and immediate past president of Student Government, provided an update on Student Government Executive Branch accomplishments for the 2021-22 academic year. She covered the areas of student affairs, academic affairs, athletics, diversity an inclusion, governmental affairs, safety and transportation, sustainability and innovation, communications, and outreach.

UCF Access (DISC-3)

Provost Johnson facilitated a discussion that highlighted the national-model DirectConnect to UCF program and key partnerships with Valencia College.

Since DirectConnect’s inception in 2006, more than 64,000 students have earned their bachelor’s degrees through this pathway. More than half of those graduates came from Valencia, one of six state college partners in DirectConnect. The discussion included UCF President Alexander N. Cartwright and Valencia College President Kathleen Plinske, who provided perspectives on the DirectConnect partnership and why it has worked well. Dr. Pam Cavanaugh, Associate Vice Provost for UCF Connect, introduced students Tamyia Paul and Julian Duque who shared their stories of transition and success through DirectConnect and answered questions.

In addition, the session included an overview of Central Florida Education Ecosystem Database (CFEED), a unique partnership featuring UCF, Valencia, and the public-school districts of Orange and Osceola counties. Originally funded by the Helios Foundation, the leading-edge project created a data-sharing model that students from pre-kindergarten through college. The collaboration is identifying new interventions, support, and strategies to increase academic success and opportunities for students at all levels.

The committee learned more about the project’s progress from Dr. Brandon McKelvey of Valencia College, Vice President for Technology, Research and Analytics, and Dr. Paige Borden, UCF’s Chief Analytics Officer.

**NEW BUSINESS**

N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Seay adjourned the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee meeting of May 25, 2022, at 12:26 p.m.

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Beverly Seay  
Chair, Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Kilbride  
Associate Corporate Secretary