



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**Board of Trustees
Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee
September 22, 2025
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Tiffany Altizer, Chair of the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee, called the meeting to order at 8:55 a.m.

In addition to Chair Altizer, Committee members present were Vice Chair Rick Cardenas and Trustees Luci Blanco, Mark Filburn and Stephen King. Board of Trustees Chair Alex Martins, Vice Chair Bill Christy and Trustees Danny Gawkwad and Thomas McNamara also joined the meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Filburn motioned to approve and Trustee Cardenas seconded. The Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes of June 11, 2025.

ACTION

At Chair Altizer's request, Youndy Cook, Vice President and General Counsel, confirmed there were no disclosures of conflict of interest from the trustees.

Tenure with Hire (AESC-1)

Provost Buckwalter sought tenure with hire approval for five highly qualified faculty members who come with a proven track record and a clear plan and trajectory for continued success at UCF. Hiring senior faculty allows the university to rapidly advance academic excellence.

Trustee King motioned and Trustee Cardenas seconded. Tenure with hire for the five faculty members was unanimously recommended for approval.

Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report (AESC-2)

Dr. Timothy Letzring, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, presented the 2025 UCF Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report, required annually by Florida Statute 1004.085. He noted that UCF has been compliant for six straight years, with 97.8% adoption in Fall 2024 and 97.4% in Spring 2025. He also highlighted student savings initiatives, like the Library Resource Program, Open Educational Resources and Barnes and Noble First Day Program, which led to millions in student savings and increased over last year's savings.

Trustee Filburn motioned and Trustee Cardenas seconded. The 2025 Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report was unanimously recommended for approval.

Self-Supporting and Market Tuition Rate Programs Report (AESC-3)

Dr. Letzring presented the Self-Supporting and Market Rate Tuition Rate Program Report, required annually by Board of Governors Regulation 8.002. UCF has 13 approved market-rate programs, which include tracks and certificates of the larger graduate degree program, and five self-supporting programs or certificates. Of the 18 total programs, four are currently suspended and the remaining programs are all doing well financially, with revenue exceeding program expenses.

Trustee Filburn motioned and Trustee Cardenas seconded. The Self-Supporting and Market Tuition Rate Program Report was unanimously recommended for approval.

DirectConnect to UCF Consortium Agreement (AESC-4)

Dr. Adrienne Frame, Vice President for Student Success and Well-Being, and Dr. Kimberly Hardy, Assistant Vice Provost for UCF Connect, presented the DirectConnect to UCF Consortium Agreement. The agreement includes a focus on student success, with clear curricular pathways to promote student major readiness. The agreement also adds an additional state partner, Indian River State College.

Trustee Filburn motioned and Trustee Cardenas seconded. The DirectConnect to UCF Consortium Agreement was unanimously recommended for approval.

REPORTS

Student Body President Report (DISC-1)

Trustee Luci Blanco, Student Body President, presented the priorities and goals for Student Government for the academic year. She highlighted the Roundtable, one of her cabinet's platform initiatives, focused on encouraging networking amongst students and alumni to showcase the strength of the alumni network and promote career opportunities for students.

Faculty Senate Chair Report (DISC-2)

Trustee Stephen King, Faculty Senate Chair, presented an overview of the Faculty Senate, including the mission, structure and priorities for the academic year. Priorities for the Faculty Senate include: retaining current faculty and staff, addressing impediments to hiring faculty and staff, strengthening communication and collaboration across UCF and facilitating alignment with UCF's engineering and technology focus.

DISCUSSION

Student Success and Well-Being (DISC-3)

Provost Buckwalter, Dr. Paige Borden, Chief Analytics Officer, and Dr. Adrienne Frame presented on UCF's four-year FTIC graduation metric, the remaining metric for UCF to achieve the State's designation of a preeminent research university. Provost Buckwalter echoed the appreciation to the various teams that were instrumental in achieving this significant accomplishment. Through ongoing efforts, UCF has achieved a 63.8% four-year FTIC graduation rate, the highest to date. Drs. Borden and Frame provided additional data and insights on the four-year FTIC graduation rate by college and university key performance indicators. UCF will continue to advance these efforts in its drive for a 70% four-year FTIC graduation rate.

Update on Artificial Intelligence in Academics (DISC-4)

Provost Buckwalter, Dr. Timothy Letzring, Dr. Kevin Yee, Special Assistant to the Provost for Artificial Intelligence and Director of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Mubarak Shah, Director of the UCF Institute of Artificial Intelligence and Trustee Chair of Computer Science, presented an update on ongoing efforts associated with artificial intelligence. Dr. Shah presented on the history, impact, industry partnerships and planned efforts associated with artificial intelligence at UCF. These efforts will be led in part by the newly launched Institute of Artificial Intelligence and the AI for All Initiative, led by Dr. Yee.

INFORMATION

Six information items were included in the Committee's meeting materials: 1) Work Plan and Charter Review (INFO-1), 2) Regulation Update – UCF-2.035 Institutes and Centers (INFO-2), 3) Strategic Metrics Update (INFO-3), 4) 2025-2026 UCF Anticipated Academic Degree Program List (INFO-4), 5) Accreditation Quarterly Update (INFO-5) and 6) Regulation Repeal – UCF-5.016 Student Academic Appeals and UCF-5.017 Appeals of Graduate Program Actions or Decisions. Trustees were instructed to direct any questions on this item to the Board Office.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought before the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Altizer adjourned the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee meeting of September 22, 2025, at 10:23 a.m.

Reviewed by: _____
Tiffany Altizer
Chair, Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee

Date

Submitted by: _____
Michael A. Kilbride
Associate Corporate Secretary

Date