



*Minutes*  
*University of Florida*  
*Board of Trustees Conference Call*  
*January 11, 2002*  
*4:00 P.M.*

A telephone conference call of the University of Florida Board of Trustees commenced at 4:00 p.m. on January 11, 2002. After establishing a quorum, Chairman Criser opened the conference call with comments regarding the progress on various tasks since the December Board meeting; among them, the strategic planning process, the participation of the Gator football team at the Orange Bowl, the meeting of the Agricultural Council and related organizations, the meeting of President Young, Trustee Courtelis, Vice President Robell, former Interim President Robert Bryan and others with Governor Bush regarding the matching gift programs, the meeting of the chairpersons of the Boards of Trustees, and the op-ed piece authored by Vice President Phillips concerning the record of the University of Florida in research.

Chairman Criser next addressed the first item on the agenda, budget reductions. Mr. Criser noted that at the December Board meeting, the Board approved cuts for designated areas, but not the specific amounts within those areas. President Young made brief comments about the final budget reductions. Mr. McGriff moved approval to ratify the final budget reductions; the motion was adopted.

Chairman Criser next turned the Board's attention to the 2002 legislative session. Mr. Criser introduced former Interim President Robert Bryan and his work in coordinating legislative strategy for the University. Mr. Criser noted that the cooperation between the eleven state universities was great and that this cooperation would be a benefit during the legislative process. Mr. Criser also indicated that the Governor's proposed budget was consistent overall with the University's priorities. He suggested that a unified legislative program among the universities and the Florida Board of Education presents an opportunity for accomplishing the goals set forth for

the session, recognizing that there will be some differences among the universities such as goals pertaining to the unique role of IFAS.

President Young then briefed the Board on the recent discussion with the Governor regarding the Governor's proposed budget. President Young stated that once the budget is available on January 15<sup>th</sup>, the University would be able to review it and bring its own legislative priorities into conformance. President Young discussed the Governor's proposed tuition increase and noted that a 5% increase was indicated for in-state undergraduate with a 5-10% increase for out-of-state and for graduate and professional. President Young further noted that the Governor embraced full devolution to the universities, possibly with the exception of the authority to set tuition this year, and that the University is pleased with the Governor's position regarding devolution.

President Young discussed the opportunity he and other university officials had to provide the Governor and staff information on the matching grant programs. President Young thanked Trustee Courtelis, noting her effectiveness in discussions with the Governor. President Young indicated that one proposal discussed with the Governor was one which would have the legislature appropriate the amount which would be earned on a match had the match been provided, thus indicating the legislative intent to fund the match, in the event the legislature cannot fund all matching endowment gifts.

As to other legislative priorities, President Young noted that full funding of excess enrollment would be better understood after having the opportunity to study the Governor's proposed budget. Mr. Criser suggested that the recent draft of the proposed changes to the School Code should be reviewed by the universities and, unless specific issues need to be addressed, the universities could support the School Code Rewrite along with other groups that can be mobilized to assist.

A question was raised concerning the \$725 million, earmarked for K-12 in the Governor's proposed budget; specifically, whether the balance would be available to the state universities. President Young explained that that the community colleges and private colleges also would be included within that balance and that it was expected that \$125-130 million would be available for the state universities. A question was raised about what the Governor's budget recommendations would be for matching gifts to which President Young responded that the present proposed budget only includes

\$45 million for the Courtelis fund and it is not known yet how much has been or would be added for the endowment matching fund or the facilities matching fund. President Young noted that he believed the Governor's proposed budget was a work in progress. Chairman Criser indicated that universities would need to continue to focus on developing donors' interests around University priorities.

Chairman Criser asked Associate Vice President Joe Joyce on behalf of Vice President Martin to provide a brief outline of IFAS' special legislative issues, which Dr. Joyce provided.

Chairman Criser next turned the discussion to the strategic planning process. President Young suggested that gathering information concerning programs at the University of Florida would be the first step in forming the basis for the work of the strategic planning committee. President Young stated that he would be discussing with Trustee Fernandez a time frame for gathering such information, as well as for the work of the strategic planning committee, and he would report this to the Board. Trustee Warrington indicated his satisfaction with the limited use of outside consultants in the strategic planning process as a validation of the process and the work of the strategic planning committee. Mr. Warrington and Mr. Criser commended President Young and Provost Colburn on the document provided to the Trustees concerning the strategic planning process.

Dr. Bryan made brief mention of the proposed March 6<sup>th</sup> Gator Day in Tallahassee, and Trustee O'Connell discussed the issue of a communications strategy to insure sufficient public attention of the event was given.

The call concluded at approximately 4:45 p.m.