A regular meeting of the University of Florida Board of Trustees was held on Friday, June 4, 2004 at 11:15 a.m., in Presidents Room 215B of Emerson Alumni Hall, University of Florida.

Chairman Manny Fernandez called the meeting to order and verified a quorum.

Mr. Fernandez called upon President Machen to deliver the President’s report. Dr. Machen opened with introducing Representative Larry Creutel, who delivered brief comments to the Board about the legislative process and future opportunities for the University of Florida.

Dr. Machen then highlighted the achievements of three faculty members and two students. Dr. Machen noted the election to the National Academy of Arts & Sciences faculty members David Grove, Courtesy Professor in the Department of Anthropology, Maria Gallo-Meagher, Assistant Professor in the Department of Agronomy, and Dennis Jett, Dean of the International Center. Dr. Machen then recognized students Max Miller for receiving the Harry Truman Award (one of 77 students in the U.S.) and Christopher Chesnut for assuming the chair of the National Black Law Student Organization. Dr. Machen closed his remarks by noting the increased faculty research and class preparation efforts during the summer months in anticipation of the coming academic year.

Mr. Fernandez asked committee chairs to deliver their reports. Joelen Merkel delivered the report of the Audit Committee, highlighting the recent issues coming before the Committee. Dianna Morgan reported on the work of the Committee on Educational Policy and Strategy. Dr. David Colburn provided
information on the University’s recommended Legislative Budget Request (LBR), which information could not be provided in time for the mailing of the Board materials. Dr. Colburn also provided information to trustees on the University’s proposal for block tuition as requested by the Board of Governors. Dr. Machen clarified that the LBR may be pared down before submission and the final LBR will be provided to the full Board. Student trustee Jamal Sowell commented that it was important for the Board to demonstrate where the increased tuition revenues will be put to use. Ms. Morgan turned the Board’s attention to accountability measures, asking Associate Provost Joe Glover to provide information to the Board on the Board of Governors’ measures to ensure accountability in the SUS.

Roland Daniels presented the report of the Facilities Committee. He noted the Board materials have been amended to take into consideration the vetos by the Governor last Friday. Mr. Daniels highlighted the progress on the construction of the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and commended the McGuire family for their support.

Mr. McGriff delivered the report of the Finance Committee. Mr. McGriff pointed out the changes to the University of Florida Investment Company, Inc. (UFICO) Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws made during the previous day’s committee meeting. Mr. McGriff moved that Earl Powell become initial Chair of the UFICO Board and that the current members of the UF Foundation investment committee be the initial Board of Directors. The motion was adopted.

Earl Powell delivered the report of the Governance Committee. Mr. Powell noted Dr. Joe Joyce’s presentation of certain IFAS direct support organizations: Citrus Research & Education Foundation, Inc., Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., Treasure Coast Agricultural Research Foundation, Inc. and Southwest Florida Research and Education Foundation, Inc. Mr. Powell discussed the possible consolidation of these DSOs. Mr. Powell also noted that the committee has requested a comprehensive Ethics Policy be developed for the Board and the University so as to emphasize the Board’s commitment in this area.

Carlos Alfonso delivered the report of the Government Relations Committee. Mr. Alfonso noted Representative Creutel’s attendance at the committee’s meeting and highlighted the major events of the 2004 legislative session as related to the University of Florida. Mr. Alfonso then made a presentation to President Machen of a framed Gator Day poster to commemorate Dr. Machen’s excellent performance in his first legislative session.
Mrs. O’Connell delivered the report of the Public Relations Committee. She highlighted various areas of the committee’s work.

Mr. Fernandez called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of item 4.13 (Ethics Policy) which was being further developed. Mr. Alfonso so moved and the motion was adopted.

Under New Business, Mr. Fernandez informed trustees that due to Earl Powell’s appointment as chair of the investment company board, Mr. McGriff would be appointed to chair the Committee on Governance and Trustee Al Warrington would chair the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Fernandez recognized former trustee Tony Brennan and asked that he share with the Board reflections about his service. Mr. Brennan thanked the Board and delivered brief remarks on shared governance, a faculty compensation program and strategic planning.

Mr. Fernandez welcomed new trustees Jamal Sowell and Pierre Ramond. Guest speaker Kim Emery spoke on the subject of the United Faculty of Florida.

Mr. Fernandez closed the meeting by commending Earl Powell for his work on the establishment of the investment company and by recognizing Dianna Morgan for her work over the previous year in government relations. Mr. Fernandez expressed his appreciation to Dr. Machen for his strong role in the 2004 legislative session, and endorsed Dr. Machen’s further efforts toward devolution. Mr. Fernandez also commended Dr. Machen’s bold approach to several recent issues, including his advocacy of a faculty salary package and surveys of faculty on the campus climate. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Fernandez thanked Vice President Mike Martin for his leadership of IFAS and wished him well in his new presidential post.

The meeting was adjourned.