



*The Foundation for The Gator Nation*

Committee on Educational Policy & Strategy

and

University of Florida Board of Trustees

Conference Call

May 21, 2012

1:00 p.m. EDST

123 Tigert Hall

Board Members Present: David Brown (Chair), Susan Cameron, Marshall Criser, Charles Edwards, Michael Heekin, Alan Levine, Scott Nygren, T.J. Villamil, Carolyn Roberts, Juliet Roulhac, Steven Scott

Others Present: Bernie Machen, David Kratzer, Cheri Brodeur, Joseph Glover, Win Phillips, David Norton, Karon Grabel, Jamal Sowell, Jamie Lewis Keith, Jane Adams, Barbara Wingo, Amy Hass, Janine Sikes, Erin Jester (Alligator), Nathan Crabbe (Gainesville Sun), Zina Evans, Becky Holt, Azir Mian, Norb Dunkel, Curtis Reynolds

Chair David Brown called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. after a quorum was confirmed by Jamal Sowell, with all Trustees present except Trustee Warrington and Trustee Corr.

Chair Brown asked for a motion from the Board to convene the Educational Policy and Strategy and the Board of Trustees meetings at the same time since all trustees are members of both. Trustee Edwards made a motion and Trustee Cameron seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by the Board.

Chair Brown congratulated Vice President for Student affairs, David Kratzer on his recent appointment as Vice President after a nation-wide search. He asked Mr. Kratzer to summarize the action item on the renovation portion of the Reitz Union project. Mr. Kratzer noted that the plan for the entire Union project – expansion and renovation – was presented by Student Affairs and Student Government at the December Board meeting, and at the March conference call meeting. The Board approved the issuance of \$50M of bonds to finance the expansion, secured and funded by available capacity in fees; for the \$25M renovation portion of the project, \$5M is funded and the remaining \$20M was to be funded by the Capital Improvement Trust Fund (CITF). Recently, the Board of Governors informed the University that \$5M rather than the usual \$20M is available for distribution from the CITF. However, on April 20, 2012, the Governor signed SB 5201 into law, permitting universities to increase the CITF within the specified caps for the first time in approximately 30 years. President Machen asked Mr. Kratzer to convene a Committee on the CITF fee. The Committee, at least half of whose members were students, unanimously recommended that the Board of Trustees approve adjustment of the CITF fee from \$4.76 to \$6.76 per credit hour per semester beginning in the Fall of the 2012-13

academic year. The Board is being asked to authorize the President's designee to not assess the additional \$2.00 to graduate students holding graduate assistant or associate appointments.

Chair Brown then asked if Student Body President T.J. Villamil would like to comment. Trustee Villamil spoke in strong support of the project. After visiting other university unions, he noted that the students really want UF's Union to be done correctly. Over 5,000 students have signed petitions and 60 student organizations have signed letters of support; many students fully support the project. Renovations are an important part.

Chair Brown then asked for discussion. Trustee Criser asked for information on costs if the full project isn't done at one time. Mr. Kratzer explained construction costs are greater if you have to pay twice for staging, costs are favorable now, and we will also realize cost-savings in operations from the energy efficiency and other green aspects of the renovations. Trustee Levine congratulated current and former Student Body Presidents for succeeding in bringing the project forward and emphasized that it has been heavily student-driven for many years.

Trustee Roberts noted that she asked for additional information, which was provided to her timely, on how the fee will be used and why it is in the students' best interest. Trustee Levine asked when the fee was last increased and Mr. Kratzer answered 30 years ago.

Chair Brown then called for a motion, which was made by Trustee Edwards, and Trustee Levine seconded the motion. When no further discussion was desired, the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Brown noted this is a flagship project. He then asked if there were any other discussion items and if there were any requests for public comment. No further discussion was requested and no one requested to speak to the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.