

BOT EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 21, 2013

After a quorum was confirmed with all members present, Committee Chair Carolyn Roberts called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Carolyn Roberts (Chair), Cheri Brodeur, Marshall Criser, III (via Telephone), Charlie Edwards, Michael Heekin and T.J. Villamil

Others Present:

Board Chair David Brown

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the December meeting.

Vice President Jane Adams presented a legislative update on University of Florida priorities. The Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee has proposed funding in the amount of \$15 million a year for five years in support of the university's top ten initiative. The Senate budget also restores funding for the State University System that was cut last year, including \$36.5 million for UF.

The House has reintroduced a bill that establishes measurement standards for preeminent universities and states that the state university that scores highest on those measurements will be awarded the Preeminent State Research University Institute for Online Learning. That institute will significantly expand the number of online baccalaureate degrees offered by the university and will be funded with a one-time appropriation of \$10 million and recurring funding of \$5 million a year. The bill also includes funding for UF's top ten initiative.

Other UF priorities discussed by the committee include funding for the Chemistry Building, campus maintenance projects, the College of Medicine, Florida High Tech Corridor and St. Augustine historic buildings.

Dr. David Norton, Vice President for Research, discussed the impacts of the federal government's budget sequestration on research at the University of Florida. Dr. Norton observed that most of the University's research funding comes from federal agencies and that UF expects to experience a decrease of \$14 million, or 3.5 percent, due to sequestration. He then reviewed the impact on specific UF units and told the committee that the colleges have been asked to look at their expenses and develop plans for accommodating the funding reductions while satisfying long-term commitments.

Following Dr. Norton, the committee heard a presentation from Dr. Zina Evans, Vice President for Enrollment Management. Dr. Evans focused her discussion on sequestration impacts on student financial aid and stated the Pell Grant, Federal Work Study and the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program will not be affected this year. Dr. Evans added that several branches of the military have indicated they will not be providing tuition assistance for active duty military. Dr. Evans is trying to determine how to support these students should they need additional funds. Trustee Brodeur asked if the GI Bill is impacted by budget cuts brought on by sequestration, and Dr. Evans indicated it is not.

Trustee Villamil added that he recently visited Washington D.C., and Student Government is ready to help UF in any way needed.

UF Police Chief Linda Stump and Janine Sikes, Assistant Vice President for Media Relations and Public Affairs, provided a briefing on the UF Alert system used by the university to contact students, faculty and

staff in the event of an emergency. They also discussed the university's campus-wide Emergency Communication Plan, which sets into place teams of university communicators who are responsible for writing messaging, answer media questions, holding news conferences, monitoring media coverage, and drafting other written communications needed during an emergency.

Trustee Edwards made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Heekin seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 2:41pm.