



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 3, 2023
Virtual Meeting
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Time Convened: 11:00 a.m.
Time Adjourned: 11:30 a.m.

Board members present:

Morteza “Mori” Hosseini (Board Chair), David L. Brandon, Richard P. Cole, Christopher T. Corr, Olivia E. Green, Daniel T. O’Keefe, Marsha D. Powers, Fred S. Ridley, Danaya C. Wright, and Anita G. Zucker

Others present:

Ben Sasse, President; J. Scott Angle, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Melissa Curry, Vice President for Human Resources; Elias Eldayrie, Vice President and Chief Information Officer; Amy Hass, Vice President and General Counsel; Mark Kaplan, Vice President for Government and Community Relations and University Secretary; Maria Martin, Interim Vice President for Advancement; Marsha McGriff, Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Advisor to the President; Mary Parker, Vice President for Enrollment Management; Curtis Reynolds, Vice President for Business Affairs; James Wegmann, Vice President for Communications; Heather White, Vice President for Student Life; Taylor Jantz, Office of Chief Financial Officer; Debra Lyon, Interim Dean for Nursing; members of the University of Florida community, and the public.

1.0 Call to Order and Welcome

Board Chair Hosseini welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2.0 Verification of Quorum

Vice President and University Secretary Mark Kaplan verified a quorum, noting Board Vice Chair Patel and Trustee Zalupski were unable to attend the meeting.

3.0 Public Comment

Vice President and General Counsel Amy Hass informed the Board there were no public comments to come before the Board.

4.0 Action Items

BT1 2023-2024 Education & General Carryforward Spending Plan, Fixed Capital Outlay Budget, and Related Certifications

Interim Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Taylor Jantz reviewed the FY23-24 Education & General (E&G) Carryforward Spending Plan requested by the Board of Governors. He summarized in addition to maintaining the 7% Statutory Reserve, carryforward funds are directed towards several strategic priorities.

Vice President Curtis Reynolds reviewed the FY23-24 Fixed Capital Outlay (FCO) Budget. He noted the Board of Governors requires the annual submission of the FCO Budget in conjunction with the E&G Carryforward Spending Plan in accordance with the guidelines set forth in regulation 14.003. The FCO Budget outlines five categories: E&G Operating Projects, Carryforward Small Projects, Carryforward Large Projects, State Appropriated Projects, and Non-Appropriated Projects.

Board Chairman Hosseini asked for any questions or further discussion. Hearing none, he then asked for a motion to approve Action Item BT1, which was made by Trustee O'Keefe and a second, which was made by Trustee Zucker. Board Chairman Hosseini asked for further discussion, and then asked for all in favor of the motion and any opposed, and the motion was approved unanimously.

BT2 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Application

Vice President and University Secretary Mark Kaplan stated that the university has an opportunity to submit a request for funding to the Board of Governors to participate in a legislative program that was designed to help produce more nurses for Florida health care providers. The program would provide state funds to match dollar for dollar industry funds for plans that are developed in partnership with colleges of nursing. The state matching funds are intended for a variety of purposes, including student scholarships, to produce more nurses and keep them in Florida. The Board of Governors proposal is due on October 16 and the Board of Trustees is being asked to delegate the authority to Chairman Hosseini and President Sasse to approve the proposal on behalf of the Board.

Interim Dean Debra Lyon shared that we are requesting \$300K from the Board of Governors, which will be matched by UF Health Shands, to provide full tuition, fees, and books for 30 accelerated baccalaureate students. Accelerated baccalaureate students come into the nursing pathway program with a degree in another discipline and are fast tracked into nursing as Registered Nurses (RN) after 15 months. UF has campuses for this program in Gainesville and Jacksonville. With this additional funding, we expect to have an increased applicant pool and will be able to increase our headcount by 15-20 students over the next year.

Board Chairman Hosseini asked Interim Dean Lyon how many of the nursing students are located at the UF Jacksonville campus. Interim Dean Lyon stated we began with yearly cohorts of 40 students, increasing to 50 students this past year, and will increase to 60-70 students next year.

Trustee Wright commented that \$300K seems like a small amount to ask for when the Board of Governors appropriated \$6M for this program. Interim Dean Lyon stated that most of the \$6M is already appropriated to other state universities and added the \$300K would allow us to serve more students, including low-income students. Trustee Wright asked why we didn't ask for \$3M to include hiring new faculty. Interim Dean Lyon explained we already received \$3.6M last year from PIPELINE funding to assist with hiring faculty. This additional \$300K LINE funding is to help

support our students. Board Chairman Hosseini added many of the other state universities have applied as well and the \$6M will be shared amongst them.

President Sasse commented that along with himself, Interim Dean Lyon, Vice President Mary Parker, and the Strategic Enrollment Taskforce are focused on targeting out of state bachelor students who would be interested in participating in the 15-month pathway to grow the program in Jacksonville. Board Chairman Hosseini commented it is a brilliant idea to recruit out of state students to Jacksonville. He added we pay an exorbitant amount for traveling nurses to fill the shortfall in that state of Florida.

Board Chairman Hosseini asked for any questions or further discussion. He then asked for a motion to approve Action Item BT2, which was made by Trustee Brandon and a second, which was made by Trustee Powers. Board Chairman Hosseini asked for further discussion, and then asked for all in favor of the motion and any opposed, and the motion was approved unanimously.

5.0 New Business

Board Chairman Hosseini shared the importance of the state university system (SUS) and the Board's vital role in it. Higher education in the state of Florida is large and diverse. It is made up of 12 universities with more than 430K students, the second largest public university system in the nation, and the #1 public university system in the nation. The SUS is an ecosystem, and each institution has an important role to play. FAMU is the top public HBCU, FIU is the top ranked in Florida for undergraduate teaching, Florida Polytechnic University is ranked nationally as a top 20 public engineering program that does not have PhDs, UCF is the highest ranked university in Florida for innovation, and New College of Florida is ranked #6 amongst only 18 public national public liberal arts colleges. Each of these universities, and the rest of the SUS, make unique contributions, they serve the state in different ways, each is changing the world, each is making all state universities better. We are partnered with each state university, we want each one of them to be successful. This is why every year when Chair Hosseini is in Tallahassee, he makes big and audacious asks for our budget, but he also advocates for increases across the SUS budget. He works to make sure the State expands our preeminence dollars that include FSU, USF, and probably in near the future - FIU. Everything he is focused on is for the students across the state, not just UF, but all 12 SUS universities. It is a genuine joy to partner with the other university presidents and board chairs to secure funding for all the SUS universities. There are some who have tried to pull UF into controversy and others who have questioned our commitment to these partnerships. Those who know us, know that UF is unwavering in our partnerships from New College to FSU. Yes, we love to beat FSU in football, and he does not want to receive any texts from FSU Board Chair Peter Collins on how bad they beat us if they win, but we want to partner with FSU every place else. Everyone on this Board and in the UF Leadership bleed orange and blue, but also, we take care of our partnerships, and we are proud of those partnerships. We are committed to those partnerships, and we are driven by healthy competition inside that partnership which makes us all stronger.

President Sasse added he is 8 months into his presidency, and it has been amazing to experience the success of all 12 of the universities in the state university system. The 12 presidents and chancellor meet weekly and discuss the common cause, one system, but many institutions, one objective, but many different student pathways and plans. He expressed that he has been fortunate to be alongside Board Chairman Hosseini in Tallahassee and witness the fundraising on

behalf of UF and all 12 of the state university institutions. If we pull our oars in the same direction, except during the UF/FSU football game on Nov 25, the system will continue to work together and be successful.

Trustee Powers commented that she was shocked to see the Herald-Tribune article regarding New College business plan analyzed by UF. As a UF trustee and as part of the state university system, we have been very fortunate to rise to be the #1 public university and be part of the #1 system in the nation. She expressed how Board Chairman Hosseini as the chair and former chair of the Board of Governors, has put his heart and soul into making not only UF the best, but also the entire state university system the best. The article was appalling, and it does harm to UF. UF should not have had anything to do with analyzing the business plan of another state university.

Trustee Brandon agreed with Trustee Powers' comments. He reiterated Board Chairman Hosseini's message has never wavered from we are all in this together for the state university system and he has done more for the benefit of higher education in the state of Florida than anyone else ever has done before. He added the article is 100% contrary to what we believe, he's embarrassed, and we disassociate with anything related to the article.

Trustee O'Keefe stated that when he read the article, he was furious the UF name was used for credibility, and that it was an anonymous attack on another state university. To use the UF name to discredit a sister university is wrong and he shares the sentiment of embarrassment that Trustee Brandon expressed.

Trustee Wright commented she was unaware of the article until this meeting. She added she was aware that former Faculty Senate Chair and Trustee Amanda Phalin had asked her colleagues in the Warrington College of Business to review the New College business plan. Faculty provided feedback to help her decide how to vote on the business plan in her new role on the Board of Governors. It is worthwhile to consult our colleagues to help her make the most informed decision and vote. The faculty provided her with short comments, and she used those to guide her vote on the Board of Governors. It was a private ask, not UF as a whole commenting on the business plan, which she thinks is wise to consult experts in the field when making decisions in her role on the Board of Governors.

Board Chairman Hosseini stated the Board has no problem with what people do privately, we all ask for expert opinions and he encourages everyone to do so. But we will not use the name UF to spread that advice beyond our personal deliberations. Trustee Wright agreed with the Board Chairman.

6.0 Adjourn

There being no further discussion, Board Chair Hosseini adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.