

**University of Florida  
Board of Trustees  
Government Relations Committee Minutes  
September 11, 2004**

Present: Carlos Alfonso, Chair  
David Brown  
Joelen Merkel  
Dianna Morgan  
Cynthia O'Connell  
Pierre Ramond  
Jamal Sowell

- I. Mr. Alfonso called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.
- II. Minutes of the June meeting were approved
- III. Discussion Items  
Mr. Alfonso introduced and welcomed new VP for University Relations Jane Adams.

➤ Review of Summer Legislative Visits

- Marion Hoffmann gave an overview of legislative visits made by President Machen from June to August on this year. The President met with 13 legislative leaders from throughout Florida in their district offices and discussed issues important to UF. Hoffmann also stated there were 9 new Gator alumni candidates and 32 Gator caucus incumbents running for state legislative office as of the primary election held August 31, 2004. Three of these Gator alumni candidates are now left to run in the November general election. All Gator Caucus incumbents having a primary election, won their races. Several now have a general election. We are tracking these races very closely.

➤ Board of Governor's Budget Recommendations 2005-2006

- Hoffmann reviewed the Board of Governors' budget recommendations including major funding issues in 2005-06 as well as the four major goals in its strategic plan: 1) access to a production of degrees/enrollment growth; 2) meeting statewide and professional workforce needs; 3) building world-class academic programs & research capacity; and 4) meeting community needs and fulfilling unique institutional missions.
- Using the goals listed above, UF built and submitted its legislative budget request to the Board of Governors. Trustee Alfonso commented that in addition to these needs, the legislative budget may be particularly tight this year because of hurricane relief related projects. In fact, a special session of the Florida Legislature could be convened sometime during the first two weeks of December.
- The UF Educational and General Budget request of \$11.7 million includes projects relating to: Information Technology degrees, Genetics Research, Florida Institute for Nuclear Detection Security, and Bio-Medical Nano-Technology, Aging Initiative, Brain Institute, and Critical State Needs dealing with UF/IFAS partnerships.

- The UF IFAS Budget request of \$6.4 million includes: Enhancing Urban and Rural Economic Partnerships; Environmentally Compatible Beef Production; 4-H Youth Development.
  - The UF Health Science Center Budget request of \$5 million includes: Regional Network for VA, Human Simulation Education Center, and Proton Therapy Institute.
- Trustee Alfonso then began summarizing “Where Have We Been” in terms of Government Relations issues for UF:
- Trustee Alfonso highlighted the great importance of the role the universities play in economic development and critical need for proper funding.
  - He also commented on the effectiveness of the Gator Caucus and stated that we want to continue to use trustees effectively for Governmental Relations. To that, the lobbying team is in the process of matching key legislators to trustees members based on geography and personal relationships. Vice presidents for UF will be matched also in order to further enhance our grassroots lobbying efforts.
  - Chairman Fernandez suggested that the top three legislative issues be developed with talking points before the next meeting for trustees and vice presidents. Trustee Alfonso agreed to serve as the liaison to the Board of Governors. Trustee O’Connell added that a fully developed tactical strategy on each legislative issue would be helpful so that trustees/vice presidents can be more effective. Trustee Merkel requested a summary after the Board of Governor meetings for all trustees to review. Trustee Morgan added the two key goals for the Education and Policy subcommittee that relate to Government Relations are block tuition and devolving tuition for graduate and out of state students.
  - Trustee Alfonso asked Mrs. Hoffmann to issue a schedule of upcoming important dates, such as Board of Governors meetings so that trustees can be involved in these meetings.
- Goals for the Next Few Years
- Trustee Alfonso highlighted goals for the next few years including establishing and advancing the idea of UF becoming a top 10 university nationally; ensure devolution of authority to local boards of trustees is complete; maximize and standardize state dollars for UF as well as SUS; using proactive strategies to address budget pressures from constitutional amendments and unforeseen budget events like hurricanes; address funding and programming needs of the older, more traditional universities as well as the fast-growing urban universities; get more Gators in key leadership positions; increase awareness and appreciation for IFAS and the Health Science Centers and their programs; enhance the SUS image with elected officials and staff including addressing the mission of the Community College System; and continue the effectiveness of using UF trustees for government relations activities (relationship/outreach).
- Timeline
- Trustee Alfonso asked the committee what they needed to do, if anything was overlooked. Trustee O’Connell reiterated that narrowing down and

prioritizing goals that the trustees need to do would be helpful. Trustee Morgan reiterated a UF trustee should attend each BOG meetings and never miss an opportunity to make public comment. Trustee Sowell asked for all trustees to be supplied with a comprehensive packet of the legislative issues well in advance of the 2005 session

- Ms. Hoffmann stated that legislative session commences March 1, 2005.  
Note: Gator Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

IV. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
The Office of Government Relations