



*Board of Trustees*

*Minutes*

*May 14, 2008*

A special meeting of the University of Florida Board of Trustees was held by conference call on Wednesday, May 14, 2008.

Chair Dianna Morgan called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and a quorum was confirmed. Ms. Morgan began by noting the University of Florida is facing very challenging times and unusual fiscal circumstances. She noted that the Trustees received and reviewed the proposed budget reduction plan.

President Machen provided an overview of the proposed budget reduction plan and introduced Vice President and General Counsel Jamie Keith. Vice President Keith reviewed and discussed with the Board the resolutions, and the associated appendices. The resolutions recognize the unusual fiscal circumstances affecting UF; acknowledge that the President, deans, and vice presidents properly determined and applied the criteria and special processes for the proposed cuts and that the Board adopts the same criteria and special processes for its own approval of the proposed budget reductions; provide Board recommendation to the Board of Governors that certain doctoral and professional programs be eliminated; and give the President the authority to provide up to 60 days of further faculty review of specific department mergers and program eliminations and to make changes to the approved budget reduction plan, with certain limitations.

President Machen noted that since the proposed budget reduction plan was released on May 5, he has met with the Steering Committee of the Faculty Senate. He stated that he has received hundreds of comments and suggestions through emails, letters, faxes, and telephone calls.

President Machen stated that he and the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences propose a change, specific to that college, to the proposed budget reduction plan. The recommendation is that rather than eliminating certain doctoral degree programs as originally

proposed, instead new admissions to those programs will be suspended for three years, and that the dean can petition the provost to reopen admissions to one or more of those programs after three years. Further, President Machen noted that there would be fewer faculty and staff reductions or lay-offs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Vice President Keith then reviewed with the Board this suggested modification to the proposed budget reduction plan.

After a motion to approve and second, discussion ensued. Trustee Steve Scott noted his concerns regarding the likelihood of other universities pursuing our outstanding faculty, and that we must be committed to retaining and attracting outstanding faculty, even during this fiscal challenge. Several trustees spoke regarding this issue and collectively charged President Machen with exploring options to retain and attract faculty.

Trustee Merkel also noted that she was concerned about the budget reduction in the areas of student counseling and the performing arts.

After discussion the motion to approve the resolutions in support of the proposed budget reduction plan, as amended, was carried.

Chair Morgan acknowledged a request from Carlos Torres to speak on behalf of the Documentary Institute College of Journalism. Mr. Torres spoke in support of the program and summarized letters and articles written on behalf of the program.

Chair Morgan thanked Mr. Torres for his comments and remarked about the unfortunate and difficult economic times and noted that the Trustees support the dean of the college in his efforts to find alternative funding for this program.

At this time, the meeting was adjourned.