



**BOARD MINUTES**  
**September 29, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**University of Florida, Gainesville, FL**  
**Time Convened: 10:31 a.m.**  
**Time Adjourned: 12:20 p.m.**

**Board members present:**

Morteza “Mori” Hosseini (Board Chair), David L. Brandon, Richard P. Cole, Sylvain Doré, James W. Heavener, Leonard H. Johnson, Thomas G. Kuntz (Board Vice Chair), Daniel T. O’Keefe, Rahul Patel, Marsha D. Powers, Jason J. Rosenberg, and Anita G. Zucker

**Others present:**

W. Kent Fuchs, President; Winfred Phillips, Executive Chief of Staff; Chris Cowen, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Joseph Glover, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Charlie Lane, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; David Nelson, Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and President of UF Health; Elias Eldayrie, Vice President and Chief Information Officer; Zina Evans, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Associate Provost; Antonio Farias, Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Advisor to the President; Jodi Gentry, Vice President for Human Resources; Amy Hass, Vice President and General Counsel; Mark Kaplan, Vice President for Government and Community Relations and University Secretary; Thomas Mitchell, Vice President for Advancement; D’Andra Mull, Vice President for Student Affairs; David Norton, Vice President for Research; Nancy Paton, Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing; Curtis Reynolds, Vice President for Business Affairs; Michael Lauzardo, Deputy Director of Emerging Pathogens Institute at UF, members of the University of Florida community, and other members of the public.

**1.0 Call to Order and Welcome**

Board Chair Hosseini called the meeting to order and welcomed all Trustees, the administration and all in attendance at the meeting.

**2.0 Verification of Quorum**

Vice President and University Secretary Kaplan verified a quorum with all members present except Trustee Trevor Pope, who was unable to attend.

**3.0 Public Comment**

Vice President and General Counsel Amy Hass indicated there were individuals signed up to provide public comment at today’s meeting. Nine individuals made public comment related to

agenda item BT7 including: Jeremiah Tattersall, Jason Fults, Paul Ortiz, Fi Stewart-Taylor, Bobby Mermer, Meridith Miska, Sheila Payne, Amanda Pritzlaff, and Tomer Zilbershtein.

Board Chair Hosseini commented that the Board of Trustees and UF Leadership care about all students, faculty and staff and that adding furloughs to Regulation 1.017 is only a tool to use as a last resort instead of having to layoff anyone. The Board's goal is not to furlough employees but reach Top 5.

#### **4.0 Campus Update**

President Fuchs introduced Senior Vice President and President of UF Health David Nelson, Vice President D'Andra Mull, and Deputy Director of Emerging Pathogens Institute at UF Dr. Michael Lauzardo for a campus update.

Senior Vice President and President of UF Health David Nelson indicated that as of today the number of COVID-19 cases in the area are half of what they were when they peaked in July. He introduced Dr. Lauzardo, Deputy Director of Emerging Pathogens Institute at UF to give a COVID-19 status brief. Dr. Lauzardo, reviewed current status of COVID-19 cases, he pointed out that they have been aggressively testing and tracing, isolated and quarantining, which has resulted in the number of cases going down. He indicated that they have been successful through the screen, test protect initiative and the contact tracing process where they have identified asymptomatic people before they infect others.

Board Chair Hosseini thanked Drs. Nelson and Lauzardo for their work. He requested for them to make it as easy as possible for students to get tested as we move forward anticipating a normal spring semester with classes in person. Dr. Lauzardo indicated UF Health continues to expand testing and make it easier thanks to the Pathology Dept., validation of saliva testing, and partnerships with information technology to accommodate on-site testing with the swipe of Gator One cards.

Vice President D'Andra Mull thanked Dr. Lauzardo and his team for their partnership through COVID-19. She highlighted the support Student Affairs has provided students for COVID-19. She also discussed the support they have provided for all students highlighting the virtual student union and recent career showcase.

President Fuchs thanked everyone for their leadership during COVID-19.

#### **5.0 Action Items**

##### **BT1 Depository Payment Signatory Authority**

Board Chair Hosseini reviewed the action item. He then asked for any questions or discussion on Board Action Item BT1, noting that all materials were provided in advance and reviewed prior to the meeting. He then asked for a motion to approve Board Action Item BT1, which was made by Trustee Zucker and seconded by Trustee O'Keefe. Board Chair Hosseini asked for further discussion, after which he asked for all in favor of the motion and any opposed, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **BT2 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Fiscal Year 2020-21**

Board Chair Hosseini explained that this item has been vetted by Trustees serving on the Facilities and Capital Investment Committee but not vetted by the committee as a whole. Chair Hosseini requested that Vice President Reynolds provide an explanation of the materials regarding the Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Fiscal Year 2020-21. VP Reynolds commented that this year's approval includes amendment budget increases to two major projects, Norman Hall phase three and the Data Science Building. Trustee O'Keefe asked if the Norman Hall budget increase is due to the additional scope of project. VP Reynolds confirmed that additional money is needed to complete the basement.

Board Chair Hosseini asked for any questions or discussion on Board Action Item BT2. He then asked for a motion to approve Board Action Item BT2, which was made by Trustee O'Keefe and seconded by Trustee Johnson. Board Chair Hosseini asked for further discussion, after which he asked for all in favor of the motion and any opposed, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **BT3 Carry Forward Spending Plan**

Board Chair Hosseini explained that due to timing this action item has been vetted by Trustees serving on the Finance, Strategic Planning, and Performance Metrics Committee but not vetted by the committee as a whole. Vice Chair Kuntz stressed the importance of making sure action items are vetted appropriately through the committee process to allow Trustees to carry out their fiduciary responsibility before needing approval and going to the Board of Governors.

Chair Hosseini requested that Christopher Cowen, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, provide an explanation of the materials and reviewed the plan in detail.

Vice Chair Kuntz asked for confirmation that the spending plan does not include recurring expense or any expenses that are not allowed under legislative rules for carry forward funds, which was provided by CFO Cowen. Vice Chair Kuntz also suggested creating a process to ensure carry forward funds adhere to all regulations and restrictions.

Board Chair Hosseini noted that due to potential state carry forward shortfalls related to COVID-19, as in the past, the state may request some of these funds be transferred back to the state. He emphasized the importance of explaining how all of these funds are spent and used appropriately. Vice President and University Secretary Mark Kaplan agreed.

Board Chair Hosseini asked for any questions or discussion on Board Action Item BT3. He then asked for a motion to approve Board Action Item BT3, which was made by Vice Chair Kuntz and seconded by Trustee Brandon. Board Chair Hosseini asked for further discussion, after which he asked for all in favor of the motion and any opposed, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **BT4 Direct Support Organization Appointments**

Board Chair Hosseini reviewed the action item. He then asked for any questions or discussion on Board Action Item BT4, noting that all materials were provided in advance and reviewed prior to the meeting. He then asked for a motion to approve Board Action Item BT4, which was made by Trustee Brandon and seconded by Vice Chair Kuntz. Board Chair Hosseini asked for further

discussion, after which he asked for all in favor of the motion and any opposed, and the motion was approved unanimously.

#### **BT5 Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Chair Hosseini requested that Vice President and General Counsel Amy Hass provide an explanation of the materials regarding the action item, which was a temporary amendment to the faculty union bargaining agreement to address operational modifications and safety enhancements made during the Fall 2020 semester. Board Chair Hosseini asked if this agreement includes Spring 2021 or just Fall 2020 semester. VP Hass confirmed that this is only a temporary agreement for the Fall 2020 semester.

Board Chair Hosseini asked for any questions or discussion on Board Action Item BT5. He then asked for a motion to approve Board Action Item BT5, which was made by Trustee Johnson and seconded Trustee Zucker. Board Chair Hosseini asked for further discussion, after which he asked for all in favor of the motion and any opposed, and the motion was approved unanimously.

#### **BT6 Facility Security Clearance**

Board Chair Hosseini reviewed the action item. Vice President David Norton added that the Board of Trustees designates the University President and the Vice President of Research to serve as our UF representatives who maintain a security clearance in keeping with requirements for certain restricted and classified research. Each time a new trustee joins the Board of Trustees, we ask the Board to vote to approve this designation on our consent agenda.

Board Chair Hosseini asked for any questions or discussion on Board Action Item BT6. He then asked for a motion to approve Board Action Item BT6, which was made by Trustee Johnson and seconded by Trustee Zucker. Board Chair Hosseini asked for further discussion, after which he asked for all in favor of the motion and any opposed, and the motion was approved unanimously.

#### **BT7 Regulation Amendment**

Board Chair Hosseini reviewed the action item and reiterated that changing the amendment to include furloughs is only a tool that will be used as a last resort and would be a very difficult decision.

Vice President Jodi Gentry added that amending the regulation would give UF the ability to have a tool as an alternative instead of layoffs, if needed. She also stated that the policy would exclude graduate assistants. She indicated that she will be vetting details of the policy with the Faculty Senate. Trustee Doré expressed concerns to the Board as the representative on the Board for the Faculty Senate. He asked if this could be tabled until a later meeting when there is more time to consider all of the details. Board Chair Hosseini asked for Trustee Doré, VP Gentry, VP Hass, and others necessary, including if needed President Fuchs, to work together on a policy. He emphasized the importance of the University's faculty and staff. He expressed the importance of approving the amendment now to protect faculty and staff; and be prepared as an alternative to layoffs, if needed. He thanked Trustee Doré for being a great representative of the faculty. President Fuchs added that all of the concerns of the faculty are legitimate and that they would all be addressed prior to anything being implemented. Trustee Heavener suggested we approve

the amendment and have VP Gentry present the policy they formulate at the next meeting. Vice Chair Kuntz emphasized the importance of having something other than layoffs to protect employees. Trustee Zucker added, as with all regulations, they can be changed. She also said that furloughs would be a last choice to protect faculty and staff from layoffs.

Board Chair Hosseini asked for any questions or discussion on Board Action Item BT7. He then asked for a motion to approve Board Action Item BT7, which was made by Trustee Heavener and seconded by Vice Chair Kuntz with the caveat that VP Gentry come to the December Board meeting with details on the policy and process. Board Chair Hosseini asked for further discussion, after which he asked for all in favor of the motion and any opposed, and the motion was approved unanimously. Chair Hosseini concluded the discussion by asking Trustee Doré to give his regards to faculty and let them know the Board supports them.

#### **6.0 Action Items (Non-Consent)**

##### **BT8 & R20-250 Naming: Joanne W. Gauntt Foundation Small Animal Hospital Atrium**

Board Chair Hosseini asked Vice President Tom Mitchell to review the naming. VP Mitchell noted, all due diligence had been completed following all fundraising guidelines, governance policies and naming policies for the proposed naming.

Board Chair Hosseini asked for any questions or discussion on Board Action Item BT8 & R20-250. He then asked for a motion to approve Board Action Item BT8 & R20-250, which was made by Vice Chair Kuntz, and seconded by Trustee Powers. Board Chair Hosseini asked for further discussion, after which he asked for all in favor of the motion and any opposed, and the motion was approved unanimously.

#### **7.0 New Business**

Trustee Cole thanked President Fuchs and let him know that we all enjoyed his enthusiasm by painting his hair orange and blue. President Fuchs gave an update on the student safety pledge.

#### **8.0 Comments of the Chair of the Board**

Board Chair Hosseini thanked everyone for their input and emphasized our goal of being a Top 5 Public University. He asked new Board Committee Chairs to stay on top of the committees and reach out to him with any issues. He indicated the next meeting will be December 3 in Gainesville, which will include the Data Sciences and Information Technology Building groundbreaking. He expressed his deep gratitude to all.

#### **9.0 Adjourn**

There being no further Board business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.