



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Foundation, Inc.

UCF Foundation Board of Directors Board Meeting

Oct 27, 2023, at 9:00 AM EDT to 12:00 PM EDT
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present:

Brian Butler, *Chair*, Roslyn Burttram, *Vice Chair*, Jessica Blume, Clint Bullock, Linh Dang, *Alumni Board Chair*, Carrie Daanen, James Harhi, Mike Hinn, Provost Michael Johnson, Rob Kantor, Emeritus Director Phyllis Klock, Laurette Koellner, John Mahony, Emeritus Director Michael Manglardi, Trustee Caryl McAlpin, Cathy McCaw-Engelman, Marc McMurrin, Tom McNamara, Kevin Miller, Dianne Owen, Dana Patton, *Secretary*, Heather Pigman, Mark Plaumann, Kevin Wydra, Roger Zlotoff

Members Absent:

Stuart Heaton, *Vice Chair*, Tandreia Bellamy, Barry Forbes, Eva Tukdarian, *Treasurer*

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Brian Butler, *Chair*, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., stating that the meeting was covered under the Florida Sunshine Law and the public and press were invited to attend. Roll call was performed, and quorum was confirmed.

II. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

No conflicts of interest were declared by committee members.

III. Minutes

Minutes from the June 2, 2023, Board meeting and September 18, 2023, Investment Deep Dive meeting were unanimously approved as written.

Upon completion of the minutes, Chair Butler shared a tribute to remember the Honorable. Walter Komanski and his tremendous impact on UCF. Chair Butler shared the impact of the Pheonix Endowed Scholarship and that in lieu of flowers the family has asked for donations to be made to that endowment.

IV. Reports

Alexander Cartwright, Ph.D., *President*, University of Central Florida, presented the following items:

A. DISC-1 University Update

President Cartwright provided the University Update, highlighting the University's history of community leadership. In the coming months, President Cartwright will host leadership briefings to offer an inside look at the future vision for the University. The purpose of these leadership briefings is to prepare for the public launch of UCF's next fundraising campaign. President Cartwright noted UCF's growth in rankings, highlighting UCF's #14 ranking as the most innovative school and the #31 ranking for the best undergraduate nursing program. President Cartwright addressed the importance of the University's preeminence status, noting that the University needs to meet three additional benchmarks to earn preeminence.

Chair Butler inquired about the measures the University must take to increase its ranking. President Cartwright shared that the University needs to diversify its revenue stream and continue to receive more investment from the state. Diversifying the University's revenue stream includes philanthropy and research.

Director Wydra inquired about the target date for the public announcement of the University's next campaign. President Cartwright shared that there is no official target date.

Director Owen inquired about the obstacles students face in completing four-year degrees. President Cartwright shared that sometimes students choose to stay longer because of their connection to the University. President Cartwright also shared that the University needs to lower the advisor-student ratio and invest in advisors for impactful results.

Director Patton inquired about the plan to improve advising. President Cartwright shared that the University has a plan that will be executed within the coming weeks.

Director Plaumann shared his perspective of working students who may struggle with balancing both school and work, affecting their graduation within four years. President Cartwright shared that other universities incorporated strategies to successfully address that challenge with working students graduating on time, thus UCF should be doing the same.

Director Wydra inquired about the collaborative strategy the University has with Valencia College and Seminole State College to prepare students properly before transferring. President Cartwright shared that the University is working with Valencia College and has implemented pilot programs to help better prepare students before they transfer. President Cartwright also shared that in the past, UCF employed advisors at the Valencia campus to work directly with students. UCF is considering bringing this model back.

Director Miller inquired about the University's strategy to reach staffing numbers. President Cartwright shared that the University has multiple strategies to address this issue, one being increasing research funds and reaching preeminence. For example, Provost Johnson invested \$2 million in a matching program to hire more post-doctoral employees.

Director Koellner shared that the College of Business is examining prerequisite classes' importance and their sequence, which are impacting student graduation rates. President Cartwright shared that the University is invested in ensuring that required courses are available.

Director Bullock inquired about the role of internships in the University's strategy for student success. President Cartwright shared that internships are a significant part of student success and there is a need from our industry partners to express their importance.

Director Daanen inquired about the University's five-year engineering master's program. President Cartwright shared that there are not enough students for such a program, but it is on the University's radar.

Terry Mohajir, *Vice President and Director of Athletics*, University of Central Florida, presented the following items:

B. DISC-2 Big 12 Conference Update

Mohajir provided an update on UCF's experience in the Big 12 Conference since July 1, 2023, highlighting multiple championship wins across all UCF sports to date. UCF currently ranks 11 out of 13 among Big 12 operating budgets. Mohajir shared the UCF ChargeOn Fund has experienced a 114% increase in donors and a 223% increase in major gift donors since Fiscal Year 2020-2021. UCF student-athletes have been achieving an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher for 31 consecutive semesters. Additionally, Mohajir instituted a guarantee of a job or graduate school placement for all student-athletes who graduate.

Director Wydra inquired about the debt carried forward for conference alignment and exiting the American Athletic Conference. UCF incurred an \$18 million cost to exit the conference; there was a cost of \$2.5 million to enter the Big 12 Conference that was reimbursed after joining.

Thomas Nedorost, Ph.D., *Associate Instructor, College of Engineering and Computer Science*, University of Central Florida, and *Advisor, UCF Collegiate Cybersecurity Competition (C3) Team*, presented the following items:

C. DISC-3 Spotlight A Knight – UCF Cyber Security Champions

Dr. Nedorost shared the achievements of the UCF Collegiate Cyber Defense Club and Cybersecurity Competition Team, emphasizing their impact on student success. The Collegiate Cyber Defense Club at UCF was established by students in 2012 with the goal of building a computer security community within the University. It served as a platform for students to enhance their computer science skills. The UCF Collegiate Cyber Defense

Competition Team (C3) was founded in 2013 and funded through the UCF Foundation Cyber Defense Team Fund. Dr. Nedorost highlighted that the C3 Team participated in 25 competitions in 2023 as of October 21st, 2023, and is currently ranked 31 out of 5,310 U.S. teams.

Dr. Nedorost introduced the students from the team for questions.

Director Wydra inquired about the C3 Team and how their expertise in cybersecurity has been influenced by UCF's curriculum or their involvement in the club. One student mentioned how joining the club enabled them to become an expert due to the connections formed with other students and their shared interests. Another student expressed that UCF wasn't their primary choice initially, but upon learning about the uniqueness of the club compared to other universities changed their perspective.

Director Blume asked about the students' plans after graduation; several students shared their post-graduate aspirations.

Director Wydra asked President Cartwright about the alignment of the University with the club and C3 Team. President Cartwright confirmed that the University is indeed aligned with both.

Director Owen asked about the process for donating to the club. Dr. Nedorost shared the fund held within the UCF Foundation specifically designated for travel expenses.

Kimberly Schneider, Ph.D., *Assistant Vice Provost, Career Planning and Academic Engagement Division of Student Success and Well-Being*, University of Central Florida, presented the following items:

D. DISC-4 Spotlight A Knight – Championing Students in the Presents

Schneider presented an overview of the current and future state of High-Impact Practices at UCF. High-Impact Educational Practices (HIPs) are learning opportunities that span students' undergraduate years, influencing their intellectual development and fostering practical skills like communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. Notably, 96% of the graduating students in the 2021-20222 academic year engaged in at least one HIP, with 48% of those graduates participating in three or more experiences. Schneider highlighted the UCF Strategic Plan's identification of Student Success and Well-Being as a primary focus, establishing goals to enhance the student learning experience.

Students Sonia Alvarez and Cristina Maldonado shared their personal experiences with HIPs and elaborated on how these experiences significantly impacted their career and educational development.

V. Consent Agenda

Director Butler noted the Audit Committee and the Finance and Facilities Committee recommendation for approval for the policies outlined in the consent agenda.

Motion

A motion was made by Director Plaumann to accept the consent agenda. Director Owen seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

A. AC-1 Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

B. FFC-1 UCF Foundation Mobile Device Policy

C. FFC-2 UCF Foundation Purchases of \$150,000 or Greater Policy

VI. Leadership Reports

Rod Grabowski, *Senior Vice President*, UCF Advancement & Partnerships, and *Chief Executive Officer*, UCF Foundation, Inc., presented the following item:

A. DISC-5 UCF Advancement and Partnerships Report

Grabowski presented the UCF Advancement and Partnership Report, highlighting the current attainment as of October 13, 2023, which stands at \$7.85 million. A projected closure of \$36.6 million is expected by December 31, 2023. Prior overall attainment results were \$77.5 million in 2021, \$75.8 million in 2022, and \$114.3 million in 2023. Grabowski detailed the UCF Advancement and Partnership Fiscal Year 2023-2024 divisional goals and objectives, emphasizing the utilization of the GOST Model to delineate the necessary goals, objectives, strategies, and tactics for achieving the divisional goals. One of the key goals is to sustain \$100 million in annual attainment. Additionally, Grabowski shared endowment performance from 2014-2023, highlighting the current endowment size as an obstacle that needs to increase to \$500 million to attain preeminence.

Director Patton inquired about the tactics to educate UCF graduates regarding the concept of an endowment and how they can contribute. Grabowski clarified that the focus is to ensure graduates understand the significance of philanthropy, placing less emphasis on the endowment itself. It is crucial to continue educating students about the act of giving.

Director Harhi inquired about the proportion of the endowment size tied to spendable funds compared to endowed funds. Grabowski explained that the endowment size primarily relies on fundraising impact due to a lack of diversified funds.

Director Hinn inquired about data around giving behavior for conducting a segmented campaign. Grabowski mentioned a comprehensive plan in place to understand the specific needs of the UCF Foundation for such segmented campaigns.

Linh Dang '93, *Chair*, UCF Alumni Board, presented the following item:

B. DISC-6: UCF Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving Report

Chair Dang '93 reported on alumni engagement and annual giving activities, sharing the goal of 105,000 engaged alumni for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. This represents an approximate 10% increase from the previous fiscal year. Additionally, the goal for alumni donors in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is 31,000, reflecting a 12.6% increase from the previous fiscal year. Chair Dang mentioned that the Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving team will focus on recentralizing college-based engagement in the current fiscal year. Chair Dang concluded by highlighting upcoming alumni events.

VII. Information:

In addition to the reports and discussions, the following informational items were provided to the committee. No questions or comments were provided by committee members.

- A. INFO – 1 Standing Committee Reports
- B. INFO – 2 UCF Foundation Board Annual Plan
- C. INFO – 3 Board Participation Snapshot
- D. INFO – 4 FY23 Board Self-Assessment Results
- E. INFO – 5 Board Education and Engagement Program

VIII. Public Comment:

No requests for public comments were present.

IX. Closing Remarks and Announcements:


Chair Butler concluded the meeting by reminding board members of upcoming UCF Foundation Board events and meetings.

X. Adjournment:

Chair Butler adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Approved by the UCF Foundation Board of Directors on **February 16, 2024**.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Dana Patton
02/22/2024 13:07 EST

Dana Patton '93, *Secretary*, UCF Foundation Board of Directors

Minutes prepared by: Ronney Demosthene, *Coordinator, Foundation Board Relations*, UCF Advancement & Partnerships