**Trustees Present:** Paul McElroy (Vice Chair), Annie Egan, Jason Barrett, John Grosso, Steve Moore, Nik Patel, Chris Lazzara, and Mike Binder

**Trustees Absent:** Kevin Hyde, Jill Davis, John Gol, Ali Korman Shelton

# MINUTES

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| **Item 1** | **Call to Order**  Vice Chair McElroy called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. |
| **Item 2** | Public Comment Vice Chair McElroy offered those in attendance the opportunity for public comment. Vice President and General Counsel, Karen Stone, confirmed there were none. |
| **Item 3** | **Proposed New Academic Program – Ph.D. in Computing**  Vice Chair McElroy introduced Dr. John Kantner, Senior Associate Provost for Faculty and Research to present the proposed new academic program, Ph.D. in Computing, and asked him to explain the approval process.  Dr. Kantner shared that this is a historic meeting because the two programs presented to the Board are key components to fulfilling the strategic plan. Additionally, if the program is approved by the Board today and the BOG in June, the Ph.D. in Computing will be UNF’s first Ph.D. program, which is a milestone for the University.  Dr. Kantner stated before the degree proposals are brought to the Board, they must go through a series of steps. First, there is a pre-approval step, which includes having system representatives review a pre-proposal to ensure there is no duplication across the system. Next, there are internal review processes of the full proposal and then it ultimately goes to the Faculty Association for their review and approval. This process was finalized on December 7th with overwhelmingly positive votes for both programs. He noted that doctoral programs must be approved by the BOG, which only occurs at its November or June meetings. BOT approval is necessary by February 9 to meet the BOG agenda deadline for the June BOG meeting. Dr. Kantner recognized Dr. Chip Klostermeyer, Dean of Computing, Engineering, & Construction Administration, and Dr. Asai Asaithambi, Interim Director of the School of Computing, who were both instrumental to the development of this program and were present to answer any questions.  Dr. Kantner stated that the 2020 Computing Research Association report indicated that the demand for industry and academia for Ph.D. graduates in computing is increasing faster than the supply. The industry is looking for these kinds of degrees and 60% of the graduates of Ph.D. programs go into industry, not into academia. This is typically because the advanced research skills that a Ph.D. provides are considered essential by the industry because of how quickly the landscape is changing, including cyber security, AI, etc. Thus, the industry wants employees who can rapidly do their own R&D work to keep up with the changing needs. Dr. Kantner stated this Ph.D. program was developed considering these factors and input from local industry partners to ensure the curriculum meets their needs.  The Ph.D. in Computing will be a 72-credit hour program with two concentrations in intelligence systems or cyber security. This program culminates in a research-based dissertation, so these skills are available to the graduates of the program allowing them to immediately enter the industry or if preferred, they can go into academia. Dr. Kantner offered the opportunity for questions.  President Limayem stated that the addition of these programs will be a direct link to student success and will ignite undergraduate research. Dean Klostermeyer added that this Ph.D. program will strengthen UNF’s ability to recruit strong faculty in computing, which as a result will contribute to student success.  Vice Chair McElroy asked the Board if there were further questions. There being none, Vice Chair McElroy asked for a MOTION to approve the proposed new academic program, Ph.D. in Computing. Trustee Binder made a MOTION; Trustee Patel SECONDED the motion. The Board unanimously APPROVED the Ph.D. in Computing. |
| **Item 4** | **Proposed New Academic Program – Doctor of Health Administration**  Dr. John Kantner, Senior Associate Provost for Faculty and Research presented the proposed new academic program, Doctor of Health Administration (DHA). This program is represented by the designer of the program, Professor of Health Administration and former chair of the department, Dr. Jeffrey Harrison. He noted that this is a high growth area and shared the Florida Department of Health estimated at least a 25% increase in jobs for healthcare administrators will be needed in Florida.  The DHA is designed to prepare experienced clinicians and health administration leaders with the knowledge and skills to meet the changing healthcare industry. The proposed DHA is based on an identified need in Northeast Florida to be a unique and scientifically designed doctoral program with an emphasis on global health management and leadership for advanced evidence-based management of healthcare facilities and institutions. The DHA will be an applied doctorate, which focuses on taking the evidence available in clinical, organizational, and policy areas and using it to directly solve complex problems in healthcare. There are no equivalent programs available in Northeast Florida, which has a large and rapidly expanding healthcare sector. UNF continually fields inquiries about the availability of a DHA program for healthcare practitioners and executives. Graduates of the proposed program will be able to assume leadership roles at the highest levels of healthcare management and administration in academic/teaching hospitals and institutions, with sample titles such as Clinical Director, Healthcare System Director, Medical Records Director, etc.  Throughout the development of the program, there was robust industry involvement to develop the curriculum and determine what the needs were by consulting our industry partners. The DHA will be a 48-credit hour program for students entering with a master’s degree. In comparison, the Ph.D. in Computing is longer program because students can enter with a bachelor’s degree. In lieu of a dissertation, there is a doctoral project that is required for graduation. The DHA is a professional practice-oriented degree program.  Vice Chair McElroy offered the opportunity for questions or comments. There being none, Vice Chair McElroy called for a MOTION to approve the proposed new academic program, Doctor of Health Administration. Trustee Barrett made a MOTION; Trustee Moore SECONDED the motion. The Board unanimously APPROVED the Doctor of Health Administration.  Vice Chair McElroy congratulated and thanked the UNF team and the Board for the accomplishments of passing two new academic programs. He noted this is a significant step towards accomplishing the goals in our strategic plan. Dr. Harrison thanked the Board for their approval, on behalf of the Health Administration team. He shared that there has been a consulting report since he started at UNF in 2002 and this program has been needed in Northern Florida with the surrounding robust healthcare community, such as Mayo Clinic, Baptist’s five hospitals and various residency training programs, there has been increased interest. Dr. Harrison stated that he would not be surprised if a couple of hospitals’ CEOs in Jacksonville signed up for this program. The DHA will make a positive impact on UNF, and it will be the only program of its kind to exist in the Florida State System. |
| **Item 5** | **Adjournment**  With no further business, Vice Chair McElroy adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m. |