# MINUTES

## Committee Members Present

Wilfredo Gonzalez (on phone), Paul McElroy (acting chair), Jenna DuPilka, David Fenner, Kevin Hyde (ex officio)

## Committee Members Absent (excused)

Annie Egan, Adam Hollingsworth and Stephen Joost

## Item 1 Call to order

Trustee McElroy (acting chair) convened the meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

## Item 2 Public Comments

Trustee McElroy offered those in attendance an opportunity for public comments. There were no comments from the public.

## Item 3 Consent Agenda

Trustee McElroy asked for a motion to approve the January 17, 2019, minutes for the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Trustee Fenner moved to approve the minutes, Trustee Hyde seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

## Item 4 Tenure Upon Appointment

Interim Provost Chally requested the Board’s approval of tenure for incoming Provost,

Dr. Simon Rhodes, currently the dean of Science at IUPUI. Dr. Rhodes has a Ph.D. in Biology from Purdue, almost 100 publications and is very accomplished. The faculty in UNF’s department of Biology overwhelmingly voted to support tenure for Dr. Rhodes as Biology will be his home department. The Provost and President recommend the Board’s approval.

Trustee Hyde also thanked Interim Provost Chally for her service. He noted that the search process was robust with over 130 applicants and that Dr. Rhodes rose above the competition and will serve the university well.

Trustee McElroy asked for a motion to approve tenure upon appointment. Trustee Hyde moved to approve, Trustee DuPilka seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

## Item 5 Approval to Change the Name of the DOC to the School of Communication

Interim Provost Chally introduced Dr. John Parmelee, chair of the Department of Communication to present the rationale for moving from the status “department” to “school” of Communication. Dr. Parmelee noted that the status of a School of Communication represents a competitive edge with our peer institutions. This designation to our second largest major at UNF should impact positively our recruitment efforts, fund raising, and student employment opportunities. The change to a School of Communication was supported at all levels including the department faculty, Faculty Association, the Provost and President.

There was a question regarding what the difference was in changing to this designation.

Dr. Parmelee indicated that it helps with competition from other colleges and schools; there is no cost for this change, and that support from the industry was strong including letters from executives interested in hiring our graduates.

Trustee McElroy asked for a motion to approve the change. Trustee Fenner moved to approve, Trustee Tanzler seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

## Item 6 Approval of New Degree Program: Executive Master of Health Administration

Interim Provost Chally presented the proposal for a new master’s degree: Executive Master of Health Administration (EMHA). She noted that there was strong demand from the community for individuals with this degree – those in mid-career positions that need this degree to move to the next step in employment.

There was a question regarding whether we have connected with Mayo on this program and Dr. Rob Haley, program director for our Health Administration program, noted that the department sought input from many in the healthcare community.

A question on marketing this program was raised and Dr. Haley noted that a marketing plan is already established and just waiting for BOT approval before moving forward. There was discussion on how long the Board has discussed meeting the needs of the community and this program seems right on point. Trustee Wamble

King indicated that this degree is required in hospital administration.

Trustee McElroy asked for a motion to approve the new degree program. Trustee Fenner moved to approve, Trustee Burnett seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

## Item 7 Update on SACSCOC Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

Interim Associate Provost Dan Moon presented an update on the University’s QEP which is a required component of the SACSCOC reaccreditation process. The QEP *Writing Around the Curriculum* was selected by a process that included all stakeholders at the University. The QEP is required in order to demonstrate how UNF advances student learning and success and it must have broad institutional support. This is a holistic approach to writing and will support all majors. We expect to further the reputation of UNF graduates with strong writing skills. The QEP will leverage the strengths from our own Writing Center.

A question was raised about whether this will be a required course, and Dr. Moon noted this is not a specific course, but writing skills infused in all courses and at all levels.

## Item 8 UNF + Pathway Pledge for Exceptional Students

Dr. John Kantner, dean of UNF’s Graduate School, presented a new initiative to incentivize our UNF undergrads persisting into our Graduate School. Dr. Kantner noted the following factors in this initiative:

* A master’s degree is now highly valued in the marketplace
* UNF new entrants are starting with accelerated mechanisms
* Elimination of barriers as much as possible for our UNF students to seamlessly enter UNF Graduate School

The goal is to have UNF undergraduate students move through their program faster and complete a master’s degree in 4 years. Dr. Kantner noted that in June, we will be asking the BOT for approval of a tuition and fee cut (discount of 33%) for UNF students to transition to our graduate programs. He reminded the BOT that students completing their UG program early can use remaining Bright Futures funding for a graduate

program.

Dr. Kantner noted that we currently have 25 UNF programs interested in participating in this Pathways program and over 60 students signed up. This program is unique to UNF.

Dr. Coleman noted this program will help UNF in the metrics and this helps with enrollment in the Graduate School.

## Item 9 UNF Faculty Association Update

Dr. Dan Richard, Associate Professor of Psychology presented an update on how the faculty are partnering in student success efforts. He noted that student success was a top priority for faculty and strategies such as mid-term grading, workshops on 1st year students, analyzing DFW rates and identifying resources to support students have received a lot of faculty support. Dr. Richard also noted that programming for faculty well-being is also occurring. Faculty experience many stressors during a semester, and the Faculty Association has increased support in this area.

## Item 10 President of the UNF Student Government Update

Trustee DuPilka provided an update on the various support programs in place for students initiated through Student Government. She included initiatives such as the recently implemented Syllabus Bank which allows students to view faculty syllabi in order to best assess course schedules, $200k for Library wi-fi enhancement, and the Drink Smart cards they distribute to students. DuPilka also noted a student fee redistribution which will help support the Counseling Center.

## Item 11 Adjournment