# MINUTES

Trustees PresentKevin Hyde (Chair), Sharon Wamble-King (Vice Chair), John Aloszka, Tom Bryan, Jill Davis, Annie Eagan, David Fenner, Wilfredo Gonzalez, Stephen Joost, Paul McElroy, Nik Patel

## Trustee Absent (Excused):

Doug Burnett; Adam Hollingsworth

Chair Hyde opened the Plenary session at 3:35 p.m. and called for any public comments. There being no public comments, Chair Hyde asked the Trustees to consider the consent agenda which contained the draft minutes from the October 17, 2020 plenary session and those committee items approved on January 16, 2020. Trustee Joost made a MOTION to approve and Trustee Egan SECONDED. The consent agenda was approved unanimously. Chair Hyde reminded the Trustees that the Board and President Szymanski will present the UNF 2020-2025 Strategic Plan at the January 29, 2020 Board of Governors Meeting. He also reminded the Trustees that, as part of the *Board Action Plan*, Vice President Heather Duncan had begun work on individual trustee engagement plans, and that UNF staff would be reaching out to Trustees with details of upcoming opportunities to participate in campus-related events and represent UNF.

Chair Hyde turned the meeting over to Trustee McElroy to direct the Board’s continued discussion on strategic themes in higher education. Trustee McElroy reminded the Board that at its September 12, 2019 Trustee Workshop and its October 17, 2019 quarterly meeting, the Board discussed emerging themes in higher education and how they might affect the University. The Board is continuing these strategic discussions as part of its *Board Action Plan.* Trustee McElroy reviewed that the Board had previously identified the following as key areas the University needs to focus on: lifelong learning and skill sets (critical thinking, written and verbal communication, problem solving, research & investigation, valuing), the sustainability and competitiveness of UNF, diversity and demographics, 21st century literacy, technology and the delivery of education and content.

Trustee McElroy turned the discussion over to Dr. Simon Rhodes, UNF Provost, who began the discussion with the question of *what does 21st century education delivery look like*? He acknowledged that there are many drivers and that things are changing quickly in the higher education landscape. Trustee McElroy and the Provost have been looking at materials and determining who has been good at thinking about ways to deliver education in the 21st century with a focus on the skills that the Board and the new UNF Strategic Plan identify as paramount for UNF graduates. With students as its focus, UNF is committed to finding unique approaches to experiential learning, “precision” advising, counseling and teaching, faculty engagement and student research, character development and problem solving, graduate school pathways and graduating individuals who will support Florida’s future talent needs. In response to questions, the Provost acknowledged that UNF’s legacy of having formerly been an upper division school has had an effect on UNF. President Szymanski and Vice President Coleman emphasized that UNF needs to effectively engage its first- year students and keep them excited about remaining on UNF’s campus. The Provost relayed that one of the things crucial to this process – and our next steps – is to work to develop a Uniquely UNF curriculum of national prominence, based on the following competencies and principles: experiential learning, faculty engagement, lifelong learning, critical thinking, communication skills, problem solving, and innovation. The curriculum is the responsibility of the faculty and will focus on students’ general education and beyond. Dr. Susan Perez, Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences and Dr. Linda Howell, Director of the UNF Writing Program and Center, who together guide the UNF General Education Council were present at the meeting. They will be the leaders of this conversation to build a Uniquely UNF curriculum of national prominence. Trustee McElroy thanked the Provost for providing his update and reminded the Board that it will continue these discussions at its future quarterly Board meetings and the Trustee Retreat.

Chair Hyde thanked Trustee McElroy and the Provost and turned the meeting over to Vice President Ann McCullen who highlighted some upcoming special events, including the February 5, 2020 Presidential Lecture with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright; the February 16, 2020 Alumni Recognition Dinner and Awards Ceremony; the February 21, 2020 Blue & Gray Bash (during Homecoming week – February 15 – February 22, 2020) and Celebrate UNF on April 2, 2020.

There being no further business, Chair Hyde adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm.