# MINUTES

**Trustees Present:** Chair Hyde, Trustee Burnett, Trustee Davis, Trustee Egan, Trustee Joost, Trustee Lazzara, Trustee McElroy, Trustee Patel, Trustee Schneider, Trustee White

**Trustees Absent (Excused):** Vice Chair Wamble-King, Trustee Bryan, Trustee Hollingsworth

## Item 1 Call to Order

Chair Kevin Hyde called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. He advised that during the meeting Trustee McElroy would take over chairing for the meeting. He confirmed that the meeting had a quorum.

## Item 2 Public Comment

Chair Hyde offered those in attendance the opportunity for public comment. There were no requests for public comment.

## Item 3 Opening Remarks by Chair Hyde

## Item 4 Update from the President

President Szymanski congratulated Trustee McElroy on being awarded the *Legacy of Leadership Award* from the First Coast Business Hall of Fame, noting that Trustee McElroy would receive the award later that afternoon.

The President stated that the University was working on plans for the graduation celebration, which would include an in-person component through which students could walk across the stage, with family and have their photo taken. The President stated that the graduation celebration event would take place in Lazzara Hall and that all COVID precautions would be followed.

The President relayed that the University is making plans for fully opening up the campus for the Fall 2021 semester, while at the same time continuing closely

to monitor the situation with the pandemic and CDC recommendations (should it need to scale back from those plans).

President Szymanski informed the Board that the University had participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for MEDNexus, with UNF’s partner, FSCJ. He

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relayed that the inter-institutional agreement will provide needed space for simulation labs and other locations for technical training. He also shared that the University had entered into an MOU with FSCJ for academic programming (BSN to MSN).

The President asked Mr. Bob Greenlaw, UNF COVID-19 Taskforce Coordinator, to provide an update. Before Mr. Greenlaw spoke, the President shared that the University had held socially distanced lunches in appreciation of the COVID Taskforce team and how diligently they have worked to keep the University community safe. He stated that he and First Lady Szymanski had been able to attend and really enjoyed interacting with the team. Mr. Greenlaw advised that the University was continuing to do walk-in testing, four days per week, in Building W, noting that the testing is administered outdoors. He also stated that the University offers drive-up testing two days per week, in Lot 10.

Mr. Greenlaw advised that faculty had inquired about doing a larger sample of testing of students who reside off campus. In response, Mr. Greenlaw stated that the University is now doing mobile testing (and is now testing a larger and wider sample of students). He also stated that UNF will provide 200 doses of second vaccinations, at the University Center, on March 2 and 3 (for individuals who received their first dose of vaccinations at the Field House on February 2 and 3).

Mr. Greenlaw added that the University has administered a pre-registration for individuals who had not been able to receive a vaccine to determine which of those individuals fit the Governor’s categories of individuals age 50+or who have immediate patient contact. He noted that the University has approximately 140 individuals pre-registered, if it is able to successfully receive the additional vaccines. Mr. Greenlaw advised that the University has contacted the Duval County Department of Health to request the additional vaccines.

Mr. Greenlaw reminded the Board that the federal testing site, at the Gateway Mall, will soon begin testing. Mr. Greenlaw advised that the site will accept in-classroom teachers for vaccination. In addition, Mr. Greenlaw stated that the

University had done a survey and had confirmed that it has approximately 400 individuals who fit eligibility for vaccinations. He further noted that the University had informed the Duval County Department of Health, in an effort to

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receive vaccinations and assist these individuals with an opportunity to get vaccinated.

## Item 5 Ratification of Memoranda of Understanding between UFF-UNF and

## UNF-BOT

Outside labor counsel, Mr. Mike Mattimore, presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UFF-UNF and the UNF-BOT, which relates to impacts on faculty during the AY 2020-21 (including summer 2021). The MOU was agreed to on February 12, 2021 by the Administration and on February 16, 2021 by the UFF.

Mr. Mattimore relayed that the agreed upon MOU addresses faculty issues such as performance evaluations for the 2020-2021 year and the impact of COVID on research. He advised that the MOU allows faculty to submit a statement, as part of their annual evaluation portfolios to articulate the effect of COVID on the performance of their assignment of responsibilities in teaching, research/scholarship and other creative activities, professional service and other duties assigned during the year. He also stated that the MOU outlines that for 2020-2021 ISQ results, ITS will insert a statement that “ISQ results for AY2020-2021 may have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic teaching/learning environment.” He stated that these measures will be taken so that anyone reviewing the documents years from now will be reminded that a pandemic (with unusual circumstances) was occurring in the timeframe within which these documents are associated. Mr. Mattimore also advised that the MOUs agreed to by UFF-UNF and UNF-BOT on September 3, 2020 (#1, 2 and 4) will be extended to apply to the Spring and Summer semesters of 2021. He advised that MOU that was being considered by the Board of Trustees on 2/25/21 had been ratified unanimously by the Faculty (with 260 votes to ratify and no votes against ratification).

Chair Hyde asked if there were any questions. There being none, he asked for a MOTION TO APPROVE ratification. Trustee White made a MOTION to

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APPROVE ratification, and Trustee Schneider SECONDED. The MOU was ratified by the Trustees unanimously.

## Item 6 Tenure Upon Appointment – Dr. Rebecca West Burns

Interim Provost Karen Patterson advised that when hiring faculty-administrators and other key faculty members who hold tenure at their current institution, it is common for the hiring university to award tenure upon appointment to the receiving university’s faculty. She relayed that the University would like to put forth, for the Board’s consideration, the awarding of tenure to Dr. Rebecca West Burns. Interim Provost Patterson stated that Dr. Burns will join UNF as the Bill Herrold Endowed Professor and Director of Clinical Experiences and Educator Preparation Partnerships in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum. Interim Provost Patterson stated that Dr. Burns is highly qualified for the position, and that there were no hesitations regarding her appointment. She further stated that faculty had voted unanimously for Dr. Burns’ tenure.

Interim Provost Patterson introduced Dr. Paul Parkison, Chair, Department of Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum, College of Education and Human Services, to provide the Board with additional details. Dr. Parkison stated that Dr. Burns has a national reputation in her field, particularly in the areas of professional development, inquiry, reviewing education and in the preparation of teachers. He relayed that Dr. Burns is an outstanding teacher educator and identifies herself as a teacher educator. He noted that the University is very fortunate to have the opportunity to hire her.

Chair Hyde asked if there were any questions. There being none, he asked for a MOTION TO APPROVE. Trustee Patel made a MOTION to APPROVE, and Trustee Egan SECONDED. The Board unanimously approved Dr. Burns’ tenure.

## Item 7 Update on Georgia Waiver Plan

## Vice President Bennett gave an update on the waiver process for a select group of prospective Georgia students. He noted that the University provides waivers which offers these students a 125% tuition rate based on exhibiting one or more

## of the following criteria: having a consistent history of exceptional academic

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## performance (minimum 3.5 grade point average)

* + - * possessing a unique talent, experience of skill that will enhance or promote the UNF experience (athletics, research, leadership, art, or music)
      * planning to pursue a degree in education, math, science, computer science or engineering (academic disciplines in demand and strategic areas of emphasis)
      * demonstrating the capacity to broaden UNF’s institutional commitment to diversity and inclusion
      * committing to participate as a member of the UNF Hicks Honors College

Vice President Bennett advised that these are not full waivers, in that they do not waive the full state fee. But, he noted that the waivers reduce the tuition to 125% of tuition for Florida residents. Vice President Bennett stated that the waiver is awarded for a maximum of 4 years (120 credit hours).

Vice President Bennett relayed that the University has a waiver regulation in existence and that there are many waivers permitted by state statute and by the Board of Governors’ regulations. He also noted that the University has a waiver regulation which allow the UNF Board of Trustees and the University to grant

waivers related to mission-centric needs - that waivers are awarded on the University’s key selection criteria related to retention, diversity and service and students who meet certain initial requirements. Vice President Bennett further noted that the regulation refers to awards that can be based on mission-centric needs: the recruitment of students with special skills, talents or attributes; graduate teaching and research assistants and graduate fellowships; student retention as a result of unique and extenuating circumstances; and international and out-of-state students who will increase the student profile, in support of the institution’s commitment to globalization and the campus environment.

Trustee McElroy asked if there were any compliance risks, associated with the waivers, with regard to state statutes and regulations. Vice President Bennett advised that the University has consulted with the Board of Governors, which

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confirmed that the University does have authority to grant these waivers. He advised that students with these waivers are not taking the place of any Florida resident students. President Szymanski supported Vice President Bennett’s statement that these waivers do not take seats away from Florida resident students, highlighting that UNF has the capacity for approximately 20K students (and is now at approximately 17K enrolled students).

## Item 8 Update on UNF Giving Day 2021

Vice President McCullen provided details on the upcoming annual *UNF Giving Day* scheduled for March 10, 2021. She highlighted that *UNF Giving Day* focuses on alumni, friends of the University, and the overall Osprey community and provides individuals, via digital platforms, with the opportunity to support a myriad of UNF programs and initiatives.

Vice President McCullen highlighted the upcoming March 10, 2021 *UNF Giving Day* Facebook event and shared examples of zoom virtual backgrounds that

Trustees might use in support of *UNF Giving Day*. She encouraged interested Trustees to be social media ambassadors for *2021 UNF Giving Day*, and relayed

that she would share a social media toolkit with them. Vice President McCullen thanked the Trustees for their time and stated that the University deeply appreciates their support of this important in support of UNF and its students.

## Item 9 Adjournment

Trustee McElroy adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.